



Bulletin of the

January 1997

A M E R I C A N IRIS SOCIETY

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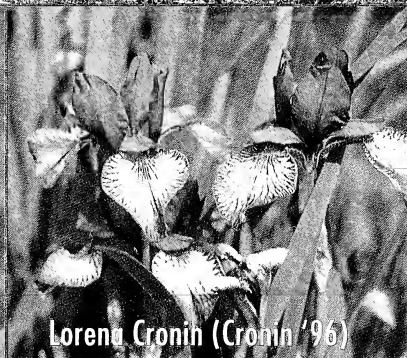


M.A.S.S Medley

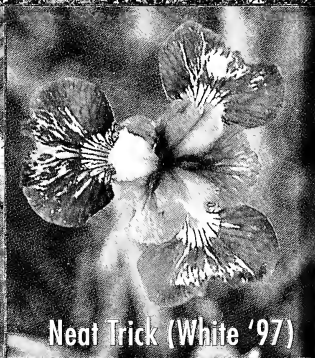
Belissima Clumps at Shafer-Sacks Garden



Glanusk (Foster '90)



Lorena Cronin (Cronin '96)



Neat Trick (White '97)



Mesa Pearl
(Bauer/Coble '94)



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Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXVIII, No. 1

Series No. 304

January 1997

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The *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* is published quarterly by The American Iris Society. Publishing Office, 8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656. Periodical postage paid at Sun Valley, CA, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price is included in annual membership dues of \$18.00. Annual Subscription rate \$18.00 per year. All copy due in Editor's office by Oct. 15 (Jan.), Jan. 15 (April), April 15 (July), July 15 (October). This *Bulletin* was printed by Parris Printing Co. Copyright © 1997 The American Iris Society.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Bulletin of the American Iris Society,
8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley CA 91352-3656.

How to reach the American Iris Society:

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The articles appearing in this publication, unless otherwise indicated, have not been submitted to scientific review. Statements contained in these articles should be considered the opinions of the author or authors. These articles should not be considered to contain final authority of scientific fact or taxonomy priority.

Technical articles reporting the results of research may more appropriately be reported in specialized journals. If, however, the author wishes to publish such a paper in the *Bulletin*, he may submit with the manuscript a list of competent reviewers. The AIS publication scientific advisory committee, in cooperation with the editor of the *Bulletin*, reserves the right to select a panel from this list, its own reviewers, or a combination of both.

AIS Membership Rates:

Annual, Single:	\$18.00
Dual:	\$23.00
Triennial, Single:	\$43.00
Dual:	\$54.00
Life, Single:	\$360.00
Dual:	\$435.00
Youth, without Bulletin:	\$4.00
Youth, with Bulletin:	\$7.00

Overseas Rates:

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Dual:	\$65.00

Overseas memberships include first class postage, and are payable in U.S. currency.

The American Iris Society

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 2, 1927, IN the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the *Iris*.

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Spuria Iris Society:

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Bobbie Shepard, 3342 West Oranewood, Phoenix, AZ 85051

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Charlie Brown, 3114 S. FM 131, Denison, TX 75020

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Adele Lawyer, 4333 Oak Hill Road, Oakland, CA 94605

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Colin Rigby, 18341 Paulson SW, Rochester, WA 98579

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS):

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Ada Godfrey, 9 Bradford St, Foxborough, MA 01035

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Aril Society International:

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Barbara Figge, 6805 Kentucky Ct. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Society for Louisiana Irises:

Perry Dyer, Box 534, Blanchard, OK 73010

Elaine Bourque, 1812 Broussard Rd. E, Lafayette, LA 70508

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	single annual	single triennial	family annual	family triennial
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Society for Siberian Iris	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Spuria Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Society for Japanese Iris	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
Reblooming Iris Society	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Society for PCNs	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Species Iris Group	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Dwarf Iris Society	4.50	12.00	6.75	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00

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AIS Bulletin

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Front Cover Photo by Terry Aitken: Schafer-Sacks Garden

Back Cover: Photo of Opal Brown by Francis Jones.

Photo of Geniality and Winter Olympics by Terry Aitken.

President's Message

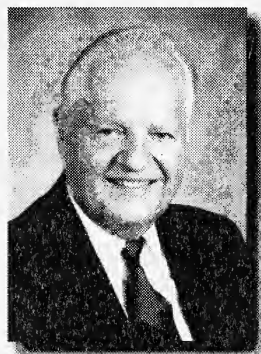
Fall Happenings

by Dave Niswonger

After a great welcome dinner by the Elmoir Iris Society of Colorado Springs, the Fall meeting of the Board of Directors began at 8:30 Friday evening, November 1st, and ran through until noon on Sunday, with breaks only for meals. It was a marathon session, lasting almost twenty hours. There were several RVPs, Section Chairpeople and other interested persons who stuck with us to the end. I want to thank all of the Directors and the others for a very spirited meeting and for the fine discussions we had on all the issues.

It was an intense session. Term limits were set for the Board of Directors not to exceed six years, with other ramifications. Two more Tall Bearded irises were added to the Dykes Medal ballot, in addition to the Wister Medal winner. Serious discussion was held concerning the merger of Region 24 with Region 7, and possible merger of other regions. Initially there seemed to be legitimate reasons to merge 24 with 7. However, an RVP has recently been elected who has agreed to promote membership and affiliates within Region 24. The Board decided not to instigate a merger but give the people in the Region more time to work out a solution that would be the best for them and AIS. Much of the problem seems to be Southern blight which wipes out a large part of the bearded irises in that part of the country. The use of Terrachlor for Southern blight, and the addition of more Spuria and Louisiana irises, could be a solution to this problem.

The Board received reports from twenty-one standing committees. The work that our Directors and others do in chairing our committees is unbelievable, and most of this is done on a volunteer basis which includes each person paying his own expenses to the two Board meetings we have each year. There are about five



Dave Niswonger, AIS President

more special committees including a new Awards Committee to review our Awards system. With all of this activity we need many volunteers. I ask all RVPs to be on the lookout for outstanding people. With shorter term limits for the directors, more committees and more projects, these new people can become involved in the great experiences of the iris world.

Just as I finished the above paragraph, I learned that Dick Pettijohn had died as a result of an accident at his home. I know the many hundreds of friends that Dick had in the Iris Society would want to join me in extending to his two sisters and two nieces our utmost sympathy in their loss. It would be difficult to estimate the extent of Dick's contribution to the promotion of irises as Director of the AIS Foundation. His many years of service will long be remembered.

I wish the membership could have witnessed the intense concentration and concern of the Board members and others present as the budget for the coming year was developed. The potential income was estimated and compared with barebone expenses. Every penny was squeezed. It was obvious on the expense side that new projects cannot be undertaken at this time. On the income side, it was exhilarating to think what a few more Affiliates and new members would do in providing additional funds as well as more energy in the promotion of the Iris. So I would urge all RVPs and their Regional membership chairpeople to look at larger cities that could support a new Affiliate. I would ask all Affiliates to look for new members. We have a product to sell which can bring much joy and happiness. If you have non-AIS club members, please find a way to get them in on a higher level of enjoyment. Many of you are doing a wonderful job at the shows and sales to bring in new members. Give AIS calendars or note cards as enticements. A new invitation to join AIS will soon be available. Get excess AIS Bulletins from Paul Gossett, for the cost of postage, to hand out to potential members. Contact Lynda Miller and get in on the Membership contest. There are many more ideas out there – let's put them to work and see how many new members we can add by this time next year.

Let's don't forget to have fun and fine fellowship. This winter share your experiences in growing irises. Give a program, write an article, join a robin, read the latest section information about the many different types of irises. We are really blessed to live in such a wonderful world of plants and fellow gardeners.

American Iris Society Convention

Say 'Yes' to Michigan

June 3-7, 1997

Dearborn, Michigan

Sponsored by the Iris Club of Southeast Michigan

Convention Headquarters

Hyatt Regency Dearborn 800-233-1234

Fairlane Town Center 313-593-1234

Dearborn, MI 48126

Room rates: \$83 for single or double occupancy
95 for triple or quad occupancy
taxes are additional

Please reserve your room directly with the hotel and state that you are attending the American Iris Society Convention to obtain stated rates. Depending on room availability, you may also have the special room rates for up to two days before and after the convention dates. Cut-off date for blocked rooms is May 2, 1997.

Hotel check-in is 3:00 PM, check-out is 12 noon. Guests must present a credit card upon check-in OR payment for room and tax plus a \$25 refundable deposit to cover incidental charges must be made at check-in.

Registration Fees:

Post-marked before March 31	\$180.00
Post-marked between March 31 and April 30	\$195.00
Post-marked after April 30	\$210.00

Youth Registration \$150.00 before March 31

Partial registrations are available only if made in advance. (It may not be possible to honor late requests.) Please contact registrar for details and cost. Requests for refunds must be post-marked by April 20, 1997. No refunds after that date.

REGISTRATION FORM

AIS CONVENTION JUNE 3-7, 1997

Dearborn, Michigan

Please list name as you wish it to appear on name tag.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP CODE _____

COUNTRY (if not USA) _____

REGION _____ PHONE _____

Please check the appropriate information below

_____ This is the first AIS convention I have attended.

_____ I am an AIS board member _____ I am an RVP

_____ I am an AIS judge (circle one: A G M E R)

Registration fee: _____ Check # _____

Make checks payable to: **1997 AIS Convention**

Mail checks to: Debby Zook, Registrar (810) 399-0361
412 Woodsboro Dr.
Royal Oak, MI 48067-4348

Say Yes to Michigan!

The Gardens Are Ready

by Cliff Wilde & Kim Hughes

THE GUEST IRIS GARDENS ARE AT REST - A TEMPORARY and peaceful rest, we hope! Here it is, the last winter before the AIS convention that we have undertaken, a time to reflect and talk about what we have done in preparation for your visit.

There are ten gardens on tour during our Dearborn "spectacular" that we have in store for you. In these gardens we have planted nearly 1000 different varieties for a total of well over 2000 guest iris plants. Last winter was a very difficult one, but with the plants established, we expect them to come through this year in fine shape.

One of the guest gardens is a formal planting in a completely urban area at the Detroit Zoo, where several local plant societies maintain beds of their various flowers, grouped around large bear-sculpture fountains. In contrast is a guest iris planting in a semi-rural setting near Lenox, located between the Northern Detroit suburbs and the city of Port Huron. Here, the proprietor, a former nurseryman, grows irises in what were the nursery grounds, in a meadow setting. Between these extremes are home gardens in the Flint, Lapeer and greater Detroit areas.

One Flint gardener has put in twenty-five years in development of the garden. Iris growing here began when a friend, moving at a non-planting time of the year, planted some rhizomes "temporarily", and some of them remained. The convention guests are growing where irises have never been planted, in beds made especially for the convention. The plants are doing very well, with respectable first year bloom following our particularly rugged winter.

Another garden in this area has about one-half acre in cultivation on a good-sized suburban lot. In addition to the irises there are about 150 varieties of hostas, a large dawn redwood tree, weeping and dwarf conifers and other herbaceous and woody

plant materials interspersed among the rocks used in the landscaping.

In Lapeer you will visit a garden in a park-like setting, really crammed with irises of almost every type, including a HIPS display bed of historic irises. Paths are covered with wood chips and the beds are edged with antique cut-stone pavers, ballast material from European freighters coming here to take on loads of materials in the Great Lakes waterway.


You will visit a suburban home in residential Shelby Township, northeast of Detroit, located on a lake with a beautiful view. Here the landscaping has developed over many years, and in the back centers around a deck facing the lake. The neatly planted areas include stone figurines and statues, and here in this setting the guest iris beds seem totally in place.

Four of the iris tour gardens are located in the suburb of Royal Oak, a current real estate hot spot noted locally for its antique shops and dining and entertainment oases. In one garden, across the street from a city park, most of the regular plants were temporarily farmed out and the space has been entirely reworked to make room for the guest irises. In the second garden nearby, the guest irises have been integrated into the family oriented back yard. (Home plate is under the apple tree, in a space shared with hostas. Overhead is a treehouse.) The guest irises are planted in raised beds, widely spaced for ease in viewing. The whole family participates in keeping the garden weed free and looking great.

The third garden features many spring flowering bulbs and a scarecrow! Interesting small flower beds are scattered here and there, one the project of the family's seventeen year old daughter. The guest irises seem right at home integrated in this setting. The fourth garden, located nearby, is part woodland and part in full sun. There is a pond in the back yard surrounded by late-blooming spring bulbs, an interesting rock garden and neat flower beds. The iris plantings have been tended by a mother-son combination and are flourishing in a bed worked up with rich compost, boosting the organic content in the soil.

In making your plans to attend the AIS convention in Michigan, consider spending some additional time in the area.

Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum are situated side by side, not far from the convention hotel, and draw visitors from many countries. The Henry Ford home is also open to visitors. The Detroit Institute of Art, a world class art museum, is fronted by one of the four originals of Rodin's monumental sculpture THE THINKER. Just outside the metro area are the very fine horticultural gardens maintained by the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and the Michigan State University in East Lansing. The Bavarian style town of Frankenmuth, Michigan's second most popular tourist attraction after Greenfield Village, is worth a visit for the food, the sights, and the world's largest Christmas store. It is open the year round, with only Christmas-oriented merchandise covering an area the size of two or three football fields.

Or plan to visit one of many outstate iris gardens. Information on these and other attractions will be in your registration packet. In all, we have packed a wide diversity of iris interests and activities into a fairly localized area for your enjoyment. Please come; we believe you will have a great time. 

THE SOONER STATE IRIS SOCIETY
is pleased to announce the Eighteenth Annual

POLLEN DAUBERS' SEMINAR

featuring

KEITH KEPPEL

On Hybridizing Varieties of Bearded Irises

February 28 - March 1, 1997

Our speaker will speak to the Society on Friday, February 28th following a 6:30 pm pot luck dinner. Pollen Daubers' sessions will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 1st. (\$20.00 per person).

For Assistance Contact:

Dr. William E. Jones, 2312 Butternut Place, Edmond, OK 73013, (405)478-3498

Or come to The Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City, OK

Future Conventions

Official Schedule

by Clarence Mahan

Year	City	Headquarters	Dates	Chairman
1997	Detroit, MI	Hyatt Regency Dearborn, MI	3-7 June	Ann Cline 2311 Torquay Royal Oak, MI 48073 (810) 280-0848
1998	Denver, CO	Merriott- Denver Tech Center	2-6 June	David Miller 144235 W. 48th Golden, CO 80403 (302) 277-0358
1999	Oklahoma City		4-8 May	Ron Mullin Route 3, Box 84 Pawnee, OK 74058 (918) 762-2430
2000	Dallas, TX		15-20 Apr	Bonnie Nichols 3365 Northaven Rd Dallas, TX 75229 (214) 352-2191
2001	York, PA			Jason Leader RD 2, Box 223 A Glen Rock, PA 17387
2002	Memphis, TN			Jim Browne 5255 Flowering Peach Dr Memphis, TN 38115 (901) 278-1591
2003	Virginia		Temporary:	Anne Lowe 12219 Zilles Road Blackstone, VA 23824 (804) 265-8198)
2007	Oklahoma City			F.W. McVicker R.R. 3, Box 10 Kingfisher, OK 73750

Editor's Message

Change Waits for Nobody!

by Terry Aitken

MY APOLOGIES FOR THE LATE ARRIVAL OF THE October Bulletin. The summer of 1996 was an extremely busy one for all of us involved in the Bulletin production. Even though I consider myself a past master of "deferred maintenance", "stress management" and "crisis scheduling", we obviously need more options.

The hot topic for the moment seems to be the Awards System which presently has only one tall bearded eligible for the Dykes Medal, this being the prior year's Wister Medal winner. The Board may act to provide a quick fix, but any temporary solution simply makes it less likely that tall bearded will dominate this award. This is not an unique situation globally, as both the British Iris Society and the Australian Iris Society regularly award their Dykes Medal to other iris categories.

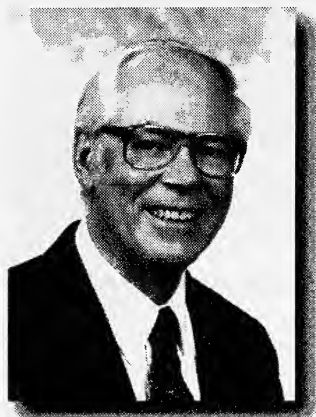
The winter of 1995 - 96 was a particularly damaging one to many North American gardeners, so we are planning a "First Aid for Irises" article for the April Bulletin.

There have been a few letters complaining about all of the hype for expensive irises, and not enough information for the home gardeners. Actually, I think the trick is to learn to "read between the lines". The show awards illustrate many of the more economical iris varieties which thrive in certain geographical or climatic conditions throughout the country. These could be good iris recommendations for the beginner, if you can follow through the compatible climate zones of the continent. With winter hard upon us, this is paperwork season. If you have questions or answers that you might care to share with our membership, now is the time to "commit to paper".

There has been discussion at the board meeting about adding phone numbers when the next membership list is published.

Perhaps we need to check a box (yes or no) on the membership renewal form? Do we also want to add other communications numbers, if volunteered, like Fax numbers or E-mail?

Do you think this is a good idea?



Terry Aitken, AIS Bulletin Editor

This is a good time to reflect on AIS memberships and how to utilize them. In most clubs and regions I have observed, there are usually a few key people who do 95% of the work. I would strongly recommend rewarding these people (usually the club officers) with an AIS membership paid by the club. This, incidentally, fulfills one of the requirements for affiliation – that all officers be AIS members. I would also recommend that all members who have 100% attendance at all club business meetings receive a gift of an

annual AIS membership.

Other ideas would be to use AIS memberships as door prizes at club meetings. Offer memberships as prizes at the shows. For individuals, give AIS memberships to gardening friends as holiday or birthday gifts. For those wanting “instant gratification” try purchasing some back issues of the Bulletin in addition to an annual or triennial membership.

Corrections to previous Bulletins:

October Bulletin, 1996:

Page 34: “Owens Iris Garden”. Brad Kasperek is the author. Sorry Brad!

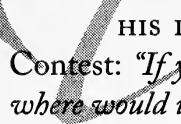
July & October Bulletin, 1996:

Page 2: Please add Marion Walker's name to the list of Past AIS Presidents. I have no idea how that could have happened when we switched over to computer? Sorry Marion!

Youth Views

New Essay Topic for 1997

by Jean E. Morris

 HIS IS THE TOPIC FOR THE ACKERMAN YOUTH ESSAY Contest: *"If you could have an iris garden anywhere in the world, where would it be? Why? And what irises would you grow?"* Essays should be written in 500 words or less and mailed by March 15, to Catherine Long Gates, 3033 Jefferson, Boulder, CO 80304. The youth who writes the winning essay will win \$100.

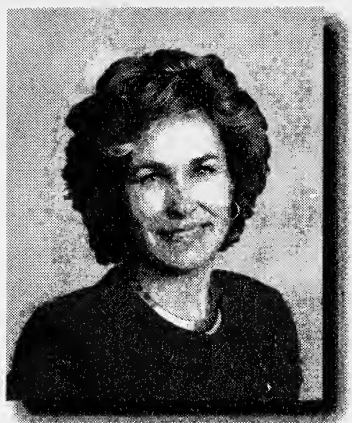
The Essay Contest has been made possible these past ten years because of a donation by Mrs. Robert Thrun of Lansing, Michigan, in memory of her parents, Jay and Marian Ackerman. We are, indeed, grateful for this generosity. We also thank the AIS Foundation for administering the contest.

Many wonderful essays have been written in the past by youths of all ages. This year's topic is quite interesting, and with the three questions, "where, why and what," lends itself to classic essay form.

If you are inexperienced at writing an essay, try these four easy steps. (1) Decide where your iris garden would be, why you would want it there, and what you would grow in it. (2) Develop a paragraph about each of these "W" words. This will be the middle of your essay. (3) Add a short introduction paragraph at the beginning and a short conclusion paragraph at the end of your essay. (4) Have an adult check your spelling and grammar before you recopy or type your final, corrected version.

Although parents are encouraged to proof read youth essays, we ask you to resist the urge to interfere in any way with your youth's creative efforts.

This year's essay topic gives youth members the chance to teach a geography lesson to AIS adults. The winner of the \$100 prize might be able to travel to that favorite garden spot, as well.



Jean E. Morris
Youth Committee Chairperson

So pull out those maps, dream of a beautiful iris garden, decide "where, why and what" you'll need to make your iris dreams come true. Send your essay to Catherine, and good luck to all!

Classroom Iris Projects

Three years ago, the Leo T. Clark Foothills Area Iris Society decided to "adopt" a second grade classroom at the nearby Jay Partridge Elementary School so the

students could learn about irises. They supplied rhizomes and provided support to the class and their teacher, Mary Old Kooi. The project was a wonderful success and a learning experience for everyone. The students planted and tended their irises, learned about vegetative and seed propagation, created an iris mural, painted trash barrels for use at the AIS Convention in Sacramento, and some even entered specimens in an iris show.

The Youth Committee is grateful to the innovative people in Region 14 who supported this iris project. There are two other Region 14 classroom projects being developed. One is supported by the San Joaquin Iris Society and led by Sandy Mann at the Denair Elementary School. The other, will be conducted by Lisa Gorans at Evergreen Elementary School. In addition, a project led by Laura Sturm is underway in Region 18 at Southview School. This classroom was adopted by the Kirkwood Iris Society, whose members constructed a raised bed at the school last August. Rhizomes were provided on the first day of school for the students to plant. Many learning activities are taking place and an official iris show is planned for the future. Irises are an ideal choice for classroom gardens, because they bloom while school is in session.

The Youth Committee will gladly supply information to AIS affiliate clubs wishing to support local Classroom Iris Projects. A little effort and generosity from an iris club can bring the love of

irises to young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to grow them or even see them in bloom.

Peace Corps to the Rescue

Some time ago, Issahak Soosa, a fifteen-year-old boy from Ghana, West Africa, wrote to AIS requesting educational materials. Several people were kind enough to donate books and an AIS membership, but our attempts to mail these items were unsuccessful. AIS member, Mary Duvall of Region 8, put us in touch with her son, LeRoy, who has worked for the Peace Corps in Ghana. He supplied a Peace Corps contact in Issahak's town who will try to locate him. If this is unsuccessful, the materials will be donated to the library in Issahak's honor. Thanks to everyone for helping, and we hope the books and Bulletins reach Issahak.

Reminder

Nominations for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement are due by January 31, so please mail them right away, to Jean E. Morris, 682 Huntley Heights Dr., Baldwin, MO 63021. Rules and guidelines may be found in "Youth Views" of the October 96 AIS Bulletin. It takes only a few minutes to encourage an AIS youth by writing a nomination, so please do your part for your region's young people. Thank you!



(1 3/4" ht.)

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International News

Iris News from Britain & France

by Clarence Mahan

Establishment of the European Iris Society

A LETTER FROM ZNENÊK SEIDL OF THE CZECH Republic has informed AIS that representatives of various European national iris societies have agreed to establish a new European Iris Society. At a meeting in Florence in May 1996, during a dinner arranged by the Italian Iris Society, representatives from eight European countries agreed that Florence would be the logical center for the new Society. Margaret Longo, Maria Carla Monaco, Lorena March, Anne Barbetti and Dr. Sergio Orsi were representatives from the Italian Iris Society. The British Iris Society was represented by Cy Bartlett. The Czechs in attendance were Milan Blazek and Zdeněk Seidl. Anna Maria Brunel (France), Sergey Loktev and Ljudmilla Rozanova (Russia), Jerzy Wozniak (Poland), Anton Mego (Slovakia), and Gisela and Wolfgang Dathe (Germany) represented their countries' iris groups.

The participants at the organizational meeting agreed that the European Iris Society will be a free confederation of national and regional societies, and that secretariat responsibilities would be done by the Italian Iris Society. English was adopted as the primary language of the new Society, and, based on input from the national and regional societies, it would publish a bulletin three times a year. This is a very exciting development, and I know that everyone in AIS joins in wishing this new group great success.

New Central European Iris Club

Last winter representatives from the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia joined to establish a new regional iris society which they

call "Club EIS." The official registered name of this new group is IRIS HLUCIN. The current president of the society is Zdeněk Seidl, who will hold that office for three years. Vice presidents are Jerzy Wozniak (Poland) and Ladislav Muska (Slovakia). Other members of the society include Lech Komarnicki, Milan Blazek, Vojtech Smidt and Pavel Nejedlo.

In addition to citizens of the countries currently represented, the new society will offer membership to Hungarians, Austrians, Slovenia and other countries comprising the former Yugoslavia. The society has a registry of about 400 iris cultivars, the most meritorious of which they plan to register with AIS. If you would like to communicate with this new group, write Zdeněk Seidl, Vinohradska 57, 748 HLUCIN, Czech Republic.

British Iris Society 75th Anniversary to Be Celebrated

The British Iris Society will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 1997. It will hold a convention at Hadlow to mark and celebrate this diamond anniversary, May 23rd to May 26th. Hadlow is located between Tonbridge and Maidstone in Kent, the "garden of England."

The three days of tours allow those attending the convention to choose from a variety of wonderful gardens and historic sites to visit. On the first day one may go to Wisely Gardens and the garden of Mr. And Mrs. Derek Carver; or choose to go to Sissinghurst (that magnificent garden built by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson) and the Musical Instruments Museum; or opt for a visit to Chartwell House and Gardens and three private gardens.

On the second day the choices are Hever Castle and Chiddingstone Village and Abbotsmerry Garden; or Leonardlee Gardens and Nymans Garden; or Penshurst Place and Loose Village. On the third day you can go to Rye and Great Dixter;; eight private smaller gardens in Kent; or take a River Thames trip from Westminster to Greenwich. What choices!

Registration is 75 pounds sterling per person, a most reasonable

sum. The final banquet must be limited to 150 attendees because of space restrictions, and a ticket to attend it is an additional 16 pounds. There are three hotels being offered, which range in price from 65 pounds to 80 pounds per night. The exchange rate has recently been around \$1.56 = 1 pound, but you should check the rate at the time you register. Registration can be accepted in U.S. dollar check or pound sterling instrument which can be obtained from most large banks. Or you may obtain an International Money Order in pounds from the U.S. Post Office.

To register or obtain full information on the convention and the hotels, contact the Convention Registrar: Mrs. Thelma Naylor, 4 Amherst Close, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 OJB, England. Many of our members know Thelma, who has attended AIS conventions and made many friends on this side of the Atlantic.

One of the great opportunities of Hadlow is that the Chelsea Flower Show will start just before the convention, and run from May 20th to May 26th. Although the first days are reserved for Royal Horticultural Society members and their guests, those who attended the AIS convention at Sacramento may remember that Berney Baughen, who is the BIS Year Book Editor, told us that AIS members will be helped obtain special tickets if they request it. Just tell Thelma Naylor when you register that you would like tickets to go to Chelsea before the BIS convention. (There is, of course, a charge for the tickets!)

One other piece of information Berney Baughen has passed on to me is that, if possible, coming into Gatwick airport is preferable to coming into Heathrow—more convenient to Hadlow.

Internet Iris List Continues to Grow

The iris list on the Internet continues to grow, and has been attracting people from more and more people from overseas. In early autumn, there were people from ten countries communicating about irises on the list in addition to 200 Americans and 5 Canadians. The list now has members from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, New Zealand,

Poland, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

A number of people have joined the iris talk on the list and then joined AIS, and in several instances several of the Sections as well. We are learning a lot about irises on the list, and a lot about related subjects as well. Discussions have been on going about such issues as photographing irises, vole and mole control, use of alfalfa pellets, the AIS awards system, historic irises, which reblooming irises perform the best in different areas, rot prevention and control, etc. If you have a computer and modem, it is very easy to join the list. There is no charge except for the online time you pay for being on the Internet.

To join the Internet iris list, or the IRIS-L as it is called, send an e-mail to LISTSERV@Rt66.com. In the body of the message type: SUBSCRIBE IRIS-L <your name>. Tom Tadfor Little operates the list, and you may contact him at tlittle@Rt66.com. To contact me with international news, or for any other reason, use: CEMahan@aol.com.

Swedish Iris Society

Gunnar Andersson, a Swedish gardener who became more and more interested in irises by participating in the IRIS-L on the Internet, joined the American Iris Society. After obtaining some newer irises from the U.S, and corresponding with various people in Europe, Gunnar is hoping that a new Swedish Iris Society can be organized. He has undertaken to find others of his countrymen to join with him in this worthy goal.

I am sure everyone in AIS wishes Gunnar much success in his efforts to establish the new Swedish Iris Society. Anyone who would like to assist Gunnar in this endeavor, or just give him a personal word of encouragement, can do so at this address: Gunnar Andersson, Kästavägen 4, S-141 32 Huddinge, Sweden.


Exchange of Iris Species

An announcement in the spring issues of *Iris et Bulbeuses*, the publication of the Societe Francaise des Iris et Plantes Bulbeuses,

may be of interest to species iris enthusiasts, especially those interested in iris *Spuriae* species. A Hungarian, Ferenc Sospataki of Budapest, would like to exchange *Spuriae* species native to Hungary for such irises as *Ii. milesii*, *laevigata*, and *ensata*, as well as such cultivars as GERALD DARBY. If you are interested in making contact with Mr. Sospataki, write to Editor, *Iris et Bullbeuses*, 13 les caves Simonneau, 37420 BEAUMONT EN VERON, France, who will pass your correspondence on to him.

Historic Iris Collection in New Zealand

Those interested in historic irises and in arilbreds will be interested to learn that the National Collection of Species and Important Cultivars in New Zealand has acquired eleven Mohr irises: ORMOHR, BLUEMOHR, LADY MOHR, ELMOHR, GLACIER MOHR, NOMOHR, MARBLED MOHR, BELLA MOHR, TROPHY, FRANCES CRAIG and WITCHDOCTOR. These irises were donated to the collection by Judith Neilson, and originally came from the collection of Ken Blakemore, who was President of the New Zealand Iris Society (NZIS) from 1973 to 1975.

This information was reported by Maria Fairburn, National Iris Collection Coordinator in New Zealand (who also participates in iris discussions on the Internet!) In an article in the March, 1996 issue of the Bulletin of the NZIS, Maria explained that "these special hybrids take their place in iris breeding history because they represent an attempt by breeders to combine the beauty, grace and novelty of the desert oncocyclis irises with bearded garden species more capable of withstanding wetter, temperate conditions." 

International Iris Competition

Florence Italy, 1996

by Dave Niswonger

IN 1996, THE PRIMO FIRENZE (GOLD FLORIN) IN THE Florence, Italy competition was the Schreiners CELEBRATION SONG. This is the same outstanding cultivar that tied for First Runner Up for the Cook Cup in 1995. Other winners at Florence:

2nd Tuscany Region Cup: MESCALERO CHIEF (Hedgecock, USA)

3rd Silver Plate of the Industrial Organization: COONALPYN (L. Donnell, Australia)

4th Italian Iris Society Silver Medal: LA SERENISSIMA (N. Scopes, Great Britain)

5th Honorable Mention: BUONGIORNO APRILE (V. Romoli, Italy)

6th Honorable Mention: ELEGANT IMPRESSIONS (Schreiner, USA)

7th Honorable Mention: KEN'S CHOICE (L. Donnell, Australia)

8th Honorable Mention: DOWN UNDER (N. Scopes, Great Britain)

9th Honorable Mention: OMINOUS STRANGER (Innerst, USA)

10th Honorable Mention: VIOLET DAWSON (Niswonger, USA)

Special Prizes

Comune de Firenze Silver Plate for the Best Red Variety: NEW CENTURION (Schreiner, USA)

Rora and Luciano Bausi Silver Plate for the Best Deep Blue Variety: STOCK EXCHANGE (G. Grosvenor, Australia)

Chamber of Commerce Cup for the Best Commercial Variety: CELEBRATION SONG (Schreiner, USA)

Louise Branch Cup for the Best Branched Variety: RASPBERRY SPLENDOR (Niswonger, USA)

Piaggio Cup for the Best Early Variety: VERDE LUNA (V. Romoli, Italy)

Florence Garden Club Cup for the Most Original Color: OMINOUS STRANGER (Innerst, USA)

Perugia Garden Club Cup for the Best Scented Variety: PERFUMED LADY (L. Donnell, Australia)

Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze Prize for the Italian Hybridizer with the Best Variety in the First Five: V. Romoli

Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze Prize for the European (other than Italian) Hybridizer with the Best Variety in the First Five: Nora Scopes (Great Britain)

Arezzo Garden Club Cup for the Best Late TB Variety: ELEGANT IMPRESSIONS (Schreiner, USA)

Collodi Garden Cup for the Best Border Bearded Iris: ON WINGS (B. James, Australia)

Nematodes

A Subversive Pest

by Terry Aitken

IT IS A COMMON OBSERVATION TO SEE A NEW IRISARIAN obtain luxurious growth on bearded irises in “fresh” ground, only to watch this growth dwindle to mediocre over a period of approximately five years, despite dividing and transplanting. One theory has it that the iris excrete some chemical into the soil that eventually retards iris growth. There is an alternative theory suggesting that over several years the soil parasite population (nematodes) simply thrives on good host plants and retards growth through sheer numbers. This, combined with a lack of organic material in the soil (see ALFALFA, October 1996 Bulletin) produces poor bearded iris growth.

Nematodes are microscopic, worm-like parasites that inhabit most of our little planet. Not having nematodes is not an option. The real questions are which kinds, and more importantly, how many? Many iris types, as well as many other flowers and vegetables, are host plants for these little critters. A “few” nematodes (less than 100 per quart soil sample) you can ignore. A “lot” of nematodes (up to 500 per quart) can be a nuisance. Over 1000 per quart can bring your bearded iris growth to a standstill.

Those of us who export irises have our fields checked on a regular basis by the State Department of Agriculture. They inventory all diseases and pests found on the property and check these lists against any restrictions imposed by other countries. Each shipment is individually inspected and a phytosanitary certificate is issued for clearance to ship. Soil tests for nematodes are a part of this process.

For the back yard gardener concerned about a lack of vigor in the iris patch, a soil test could be useful, but may cost \$20.00 to \$30.00. A quick and easy check is to dig up an iris, shake off the

soil and examine the roots.

If the roots of bearded irises are long and straight, you do not have a problem with nematodes. If they are short and stubby, Dagger and Lesion nematodes may be suspect. If the roots are knobby and gnarly, short and branched, then Root Knot nematodes can be suspected. It doesn't much matter which kind you have. In large numbers (see above paragraph), the net result is a loss of vigor by bearded iris plants in your garden, and no amount of fertilizer seems to help. On Japanese irises, orange stains are a tell-tale sign of root injuries which could be caused by nematodes. Although, actually, I am not aware of nematodes having a stunting affect on the growth of any of the beardless irises.


There are several methods of reducing (notice I didn't say eliminating) your nematode population. The quick fixes are soil fumigation, either *Vapam* or *Methyl Bromide*. These are rather dangerous chemicals which require very careful application. The treated area is covered with plastic for a day or two and must be left to air out for one or two weeks before planting can begin. In my opinion, a much more effective chemical is *Nemacur*, 10%, sold by Miles Inc., Kansas City, MO (800) 842-8020, (not available in California,) which we have used for about ten years. It is a granular material (consistency of fine sand) which can be applied with a fertilizer spreader, as directed by the manufacturer. It should be worked into the soil, preferably with a rototiller, to get it into the root zone of your plants. You can plant in it immediately, provided you wear rubber gloves and boots, as directed by the manufacturer. Even though it is a restricted chemical, as is *Methyl Bromide*, it appears to be quite specific to nematodes, and we have seen active earthworms in the treated area a day or so after application.

Our before-and-after soil tests indicate a 90% reduction in population with each annual application at transplant time. The home gardener, or better yet, a garden club, could arrange with a licensed applicator to do all of the club gardens at one time. The trick is to order early, as *Nemacur* is not always a stock item, and it is expensive; about \$150.00 per fifty pound bag, which is enough

to treat an acre, or five pounds per 1000 sq.ft. For the home gardener, one application every two or three years probably would keep the nematodes under control.

For the home gardener several other remedies may be helpful in discouraging nematodes. First, starve them out. Let a portion of your garden “rest” or lay fallow for a season. Add compost and cover with black plastic. (If the “nemies” have no juicy, delicious, zesty McRoots to feed on, they will go party somewhere else!) Second, rotate your plantings using alternative plants that are resistant to nematodes. Try rotating your bearded and beardless irises along with other nematode resistant flowers and vegetables. The most informative book that I have seen on this subject is **Controlling Vegetable Pests** by Ortho, 1991, which lists many suitable plants for rotation. Third, drown them out. Soak your plants overnight in water during transplanting. I don’t know how long a nematode can hold it’s breath, but it’ll be a mighty unhappy critter by morning! Fourth, bring in the nematode MAFIA, a “beneficial nematode” which feeds on the “not so beneficial” nematodes. (Sounds like the old white hat/black hat western movie routine to me!) These are available through mail order catalogs and are extremely expensive on a large scale, but again may be useful for the home gardener. Another solution is ground crab and shrimp shells which encourage soil bacteria hostile to nematodes. I haven’t tried these home remedies, but if we have veteran gardeners who have, I would like to hear about it.

In general, nematodes become increasingly active as the soil temperature rises. In subtropical regions such as Hawaii or Florida, I would recommend growing bearded irises in sterile soil in pots above ground rather than in the ground.

This all sounds like a lot of work for an unseen enemy. However, for those wishing for spectacular showstalks at show time, iris enthusiasts will go to great lengths to maintain a high standard of garden quality. Happy gardening! 

100 Favorite Iris

1997 Tall Bearded Symposium

Below is the results of the Tall Bearded Symposium Ballot included in the July AIS Bulletin. Ranking is shown for 1996 and 1997. All AIS members were eligible to vote (not just judges). Late returns were not counted.

1996	1997	Votes	Variety	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
2	1	742	Dusky Challenger	Schreiner's	'86	M-L	39"	dark purple
1	2	711	Silverado	Schreiner's	'87	M	38"	lt. silver blue
3	3	561	Jesse's Song	B. Williamson	'83	M	36"	wht. & vio. plic.
4	4	549	Beverly Sills	B. Hager	'79	M	36"	pink
7	5	530	Titan's Glory	Schreiner's	'81	E-M	37"	dark violet
5	6	487	Honky Tonk Blues	Schreiner's	'81	M	37"	hyacinth blue
6	7	469	Edith Wolford	B. Hager	'86	M	40"	yell.S.,bluevio.F.
8	8	461	Vanity	B. Hager	'75	E-L	36"	pink
9	9	443	Lady Friend	J. Ghio	'81	VE-E	38"	garnet red
10	10	422	Stepping Out	Schreiner's	'64	M-L	38"	wht.& violet plic.
20	11	385	Thornbird	M. Byers	'89	M	35"	ecru tan, vio. horns
13	12	382	Before The Storm	S. Innerst	'89	M	36"	black
12	13	370	Laced Cotton	Schreiner's	'80	M-L	34"	white
14	14	363	Going My Way	J. Gibson	'72	M	37"	wht.& violet plic
11	15	358	Mary Frances	L. Gaultier	'73	M	38"	blue-orchid
17	16	357	Song Of Norway	W. Luihn	'79	M-L	38"	powder blue
15	17	354	Victoria Falls	Schreiner's	'77	E-L	40"	blue, white spot
22	18	325	Superstition	Schreiner's	'77	M	36"	maroon black
29	19	317	Skating Party	L. Gaultier	'83	M-L	40"	white
16	20	294	Breakers	Schreiner's	'86	M	37"	med. blue
24	20	294	Supreme Sultan	Schreiner's	'88	M-L	40"	yellow & crimson
19	22	293	Hello Darkness	Schreiner's	'92	E-M	37"	purple black
27	23	289	Sky Hooks	M. Osborne	'80	M	36"	soft yell./vio. horn
34	24	271	Rustler	K. Keppel	'88	M	37"	gold-brown
26	25	264	Conjuration	M. Byers	'89	M-L	36"	wht. & vio./wht.horn
30	26	261	Joyce Terry	T. Muhlestein	'74	M-L	38"	yel.& wht./edged yel
21	27	251	Champagne Elegance	D. Niswonger	'87	M	33"	pink & apricot
23	28	234	Ringo	G.Shoop	'79	M	38"	white/grape edge
18	29	232	Mystique	J. Ghio	'75	E-L	36"	lt. blue S/F dp.blue
25	30	227	Immortality	L. Zurbrigg	'84	M& RE	30"	white
40	31	222	Dazzling Gold	D.C. Anderson	'81	M	29"	yel. veined brwn
68	32	219	Yaquina Blue	Schreiner's	'92	M	37"	med. blue
31	33	216	Codicil	S. Innerst	'85	M-L	32"	Lt.blue/black b.

1996	1997	Votes	Variety	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
32	34	210	Everything Plus	D. Niswonger	'84	M	34"	blue & wht/vio. plic
27	35	209	Anna Belle Babson	B. Hager	'85	M	36"	bright pink
36	35	209	Gay Parasol	Schreiner's	'74	M	35"	lav-wht/rose violet
39	37	208	Queen In Calico	J. Gibson	'80	M	34"	apricot/red vio.plc.
33	38	205	Bride's Halo	H. Mohr	'73	E-L	36"	white edged yel
44	39	196	Acoma	T. Magee	'90	E	30"	pale bl.,iv.vio.plc.
35	40	189	Mulled Wine	K. Keppel	'82	L	36"	raspberry-burgundy
38	40	189	Persian Berry	L. Gaulter	'77	M	35"	mulberry-lavender
37	42	188	Copper Classic	E. Roderick	'75	L	30"	burnt orange
41	43	184	Ruffled Ballet	E. Roderick	'75	M-L	30"	blue-wht. S.,blue F.
42	44	177	Cherry Smoke	D. Meek	'78	M-L	34"	red-black
50	45	176	Afternoon Delight	R. Ernst	'85	M	40"	tan-gold / maroon
69	46	173	Sweet Musette	Schreiner's	'86	M-L	37"	flamingo/ rose
47	47	167	Oktoberfest	W. Maryott	'87	M	37"	red-orange
52	48	164	Olympiad	J. Ghio	'84	E-L	38"	pale blue
61	48	164	Thriller	Schreiner's	'88	M-L	36"	cerise / claret
—	50	158	Boogie Woogie	H. Nichols	'93	M-L	36"	wht.S., F.cldy. vio.
43	51	157	Night Ruler	Schreiner's	'90	M	39"	dark purple
56	52	156	Bubbling Over	J. Ghio	'82	E-L	36"	blue-lilac
79	52	156	Study In Black	G. Plough	'68	E-M	36"	red black
54	54	155	Camelot Rose	C. Tompkins	'65	M-L	30"	lilac/burgundy
51	55	154	Rare Treat	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	34"	blue & wht plic
83	56	153	Gypsy Woman	Schreiner's	'85	E-M	35"	yell. S., cream F.
—	56	153	Mesmerizer	M. Byers	'91	M	36"	white/wht. flounces
65	56	153	Orange Slices	D. Niswonger	'87	M	33"	light orange
76	59	152	Fringe Benefits	B. Hager	'88	M	30"	orange
49	60	149	Kilt Lilt	J. Gibson	'70	E-M	40"	tan-gold-mroon plic
79	61	145	Eastertime	Schreiner's	'80	M-L	38"	cream/gold edges
53	61	145	Lemon Mist	N. Rudolph	'72	E	32"	lemon yellow
45	63	142	Rosette Wine	Schreiner's	'89	E-L	36"	petunia pur.wht.spot
74	64	141	Blenheim Royal	Schreiner's	'90	M	38"	medium blue
58	64	141	Purple Pepper	D.C. Nearpass	'86	M	35"	lav.-blue & wht.plic
46	64	141	Sweeter Than Wine	Schreiner's	'88	E-M	35"	wht. S., royal pur.F
66	67	138	Altruist	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	37"	pale blue
69	67	138	Raspberry Fudge	K. Keppel	'89	E-M	36"	rasp. tan plicata
69	69	135	Babbling Brook	K. Keppel	'66	M	38"	light blue
92	70	134	Tennison Ridge	J. Begley	'89	E-M	38"	plum.wht.burg.plic
60	71	133	Lullaby Of Spring	Schreiner's	'87	E-M	38"	mimosa yel/ mauve
78	72	132	Designer Gown	J. Ghio	'85	E-M	34"	pink
47	72	132	Lorilee	Schreiner's	'81	M-L	37"	rose-orchid
96	74	131	Catalyst	K. Keppel	'80	M	35"	yellow
57	74	131	Grand Waltz	Schreiner's	'70	M-L	35"	lavender-orchid
90	76	130	Christmas Time	Schreiner's	'65	M	41"	white, red beard

1996	1997	Votes	Variety	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
84	76	130	Debby Rairdon	R. Kuntz	'65	M-L	36"	white/yellow trim
—	78	129	City Lights	M. Dunn	'91	M	37"	blue/wht spt.on F
76	78	129	Dover Beach	D.C. Nearpass	'72	E-L	42"	white S., blue F.
59	80	128	Best Bet	Schreiner's	'88	E	36"	lt. bl.S.dp.blue F.
—	80	128	Proud Tradition	Schreiner's	'90	E-M	36"	S. lt. blue,F.m.bl.
—	82	127	Classic Look	Schreiner's	'92	E-M	36"	ruff. wht,bl. marks
92	82	127	Winter Olympics	O. Brown	'63	E-M	37"	white
82	84	125	America's Cup	J. McWhirter	'89	M	40"	white
74	84	125	Latin Lover	G. Shoop	'69	M	36"	lav.pink & grape
69	86	124	Holy Night	K. Mohr	'83	E	35"	deep violet purple
—	87	122	Black Tie Affair	Schreiner's	'93	M	36"	inky black
62	87	122	Hindenburch	W. Maryott	'83	M	37"	orange
62	89	121	Eagle's Flight	Schreiner's	'86	E-M	35"	blue & white plic.
79	90	120	Shipshape	S. Babson	'69	M	38"	medium blue
—	91	119	Rhonda Fleming	R. Mullin	'93	M-L	35"	wht. nar.band.lilac
86	92	117	Bayberry Candle	C. Deforest	'69	M	36"	chart..gold & olive
86	92	117	Master Touch	Schreiner's	'80	E-M	40"	purple
64	94	116	Loyalist	Schreiner's	'86	M-L	37"	rich claret-wine
99	95	115	Theatre	K. Keppel	'81	E-M	34"	wht.vio.bitone plc.
—	96	113	Speed Limit	L. Lauer	'92	E-M&Re.	38"	med.bl./wht. spot
96	97	111	Tomorrow's Child	Blyth/Keppel	'84	M-L	35"	pink/red-orchid
67	98	107	Ginger Swirl	Schreiner's	'85	M-L	34"	copper/ orchid
55	98	107	Leda's Lover	B. Hager	'80	M	38"	white
98	100	106	Michigan Pride	T. Berndt	'76	M	35"	yell./maroon plic.
—	100	106	Stairway To Heaven	L. Lauer	'93	E-M	40"	off-wht S, med blu F

Runners-Up: 105 Extravagant, 103 Busy Being Blue, 103 Pink Taffeta, 102 Cup Race, and 100 Rapture In Blue.

New to the list: Black Tie Affair, Boogie Woogie, City Lights, Classic Look, Mesmerizer, Proud Tradition, Rhonda Fleming, Speed Limit and Stairway To Heaven

Dropped from the list: Cup Race, Extravagant, Infinite Grace, Lacy Snowflake, Navajo Jewel, Navy Strut, Pink Taffeta, Queen Of Hearts, and Snowbrook

1997 Symposium Percentages of Members Voting by Regions:

Region 12	43%	Region 8	23.1%	Region 9	18.6%	Region 6	13%
Region 11	42%	Region 17	22.1%	Region 1	18.5%	Region 3	12.4%
Region 15	39.76%	Region 24	19.6%	Region 22	18.5%	Region 19	9.6%
Region 13	28%	Region 18	19.5%	Region 5	17.4%	Region 2	9.47%
Region 14	26%	Region 7	19.1%	Region 4	14.25%	Region 16	9%
Region 23	24.4%	Region 21	18.7%	Region 20	13.4%		

23 overseas members voted

Median Fix- Portland, Oregon

Region 13 Hybridizers in Review

by Marky Smith

Keith Keppel calls them the “hors d’oeuvres;” but in 1996, the early Medians were a feast unto themselves. And more than one hundred Median enthusiasts, who assembled in Portland on the last day of April for a two-day “banquet” of the little ones, did not go home hungry. Visitors came from at home, across the United States, and even abroad, including Russia, England, Germany and Australia.

Our first day of touring began after lunch, with leisurely visits to two gardens. First was Terry and Barbara Aitken’s Salmon Creek Gardens, across the Columbia River in Vancouver. This was the northernmost of the tour gardens; and we saw the early part of the bloom season here. with the rhododendrons just opening and the hostas unfurling. The entrance to the garden is bordered by the distinctive SDB PELE (Aitken ’93), with orange sherbet standards and fall rims, red-violet falls, and bright tangerine beards. This splash of color was boosted by orange pansies, and Terry’s HOT SPICE (’89), a cinnamon plicata IB, with the spice sprinkled heavily over the butter ground. Even though the Northwest had suffered a difficult winter and a cold spring, all garden foliage was remarkably clean and free of leaf spot. Bloom might have been a bit late, but the SDBs seemed unfazed, as they always do, by the preceding cold and deluge.

Visitors were drawn in by bloom on the named rows of Standard Dwarfs, with flowers also remaining on the commercial MDBs. Deeper into the yard, we found the 1996 introductions including a marvelous row of JADE MAID (Aitken ’96), a ruffled chartreuse, with a red fall spot and lavender beard. Alongside were Bennett Jones’ rich blue CLEAR CREEK (’96), with its bright

yellow beard, and the intriguing JAMES BOND (Smith '96), ruffled Cadet blue, with bronze shoulders and royal blue beards.

The convention guests were planted in beds midway between the gentle slopes of the large, airy garden. Bennett Jones' IRISH MOSS ('94), was a soft blue, with moss green fall spot and deeper blue beards. Opposing the cool colors, Jayne Ritchie's variegata POCO TACO ('96) was a small furnace, with primrose standards and wire rim around red-violet falls. Also in hot colors were Smith 92-20A, (INCENDIARY '97), aureolin yellow ground and black-burgundy plicata markings, and slashed with a smoked gold beard.

The second stop that afternoon was Bennett and Evelyn Jones' hillside garden in western Portland. In the shaded front yard, Bennett's hosta collection was leafing out, and drifts of Pacific Coast irises included Bennett's PACIFIC RIM, a wide white with medium blue fall rims. The slope behind the house, one of the garden marvels of our time, is for bearded irises; and Bennett began planting them there in 1946. Fifty years later, the beds of seedlings and named introductions were magnificent at peak bloom. Bennett attributes a continuous half century of irises to soil testing. Presently, he adds compost, nitrogen, and trace elements such as Magnesium and Boron.

The miracle of his half century of hybridizing successes cannot be explained by trace elements alone. We hovered over the two-year jeweled clumps, which included old friends like the deep red CHERRY GARDEN ('67) and the glowing yellow SUN DOLL ('85), the cool blues of RAIN DANCE ('79) and SHY VIOLET ('89), and the spice of GINGERBREAD MAN ('69) offset by the flames of ORANGE TIGER ('88).

Bennett's wife, Evelyn, has the same gifted eye (and hands), and she works with a range from SDBs to Talls. Two of her elegant SDBs were in bloom: the pristine SNOW SEASON ('93), with its pale lilac pink beard, and the flare of MORNING'S BLUSH ('94), with rich yellow standards and fall rims and a blended orange spot under fire-engine red beards. Bennett had made room for some visitors as well: JADE JEWELS (Aitken '89), carved from chartreuse wax and accented with deep blue beards, and PELE, mentioned above. Carol Lankow was represented with

JEWELER'S ART ('93), a distinctive bicolor of mauve-lilac standards over black red falls, and PLUM LUCKY (Lankow '94), with dark red violet standards and black-maroon plush falls. At one corner of the bed, GEMSTAR, (Smith '94) was a perfect two year clump of deep violet-blue, each flower lighted within by white beards ending in white star tips. Alongside, in gorgeous contrast, was Bennett's CAPTIVE SUN ('94), a perfect amoena, with snowy standards and wide, white fall rim around a green-gold fall spot, accented by soft blue beards. This ruffled elegance deserved its final selection as Best In Region Cultivar. (See center page of July, 1996 Bulletin for picture.)

Bennett had not thinned his first year seedlings, so we could see the variations of soft peach, orange, yellow and blue that he's working, as well as his lettuce-green amoenas with fantastic red beards, now in their third generation. For me, the most marvelous part of any visit to the Jones' is their enthusiasm, not only for personal work in progress, but for each other's seedlings, and further, for those of their friends. It is impossible not to come away inspired and awed by a pair of masters.

Early the next morning, we reboarded the buses for Salem, with the first stop at Schreiner's Gardens. The median irises received part of their original impetus from Bob Schreiner, who imported pumila seed in the 1930's. Selections from this seed boosted the breeding program that led to the modern Standard Dwarfs. We walked the length of the display yard to the southeast corner bed, which was planted entirely to Medians. Salem is warmer than Portland and Vancouver, so the SDBs were at peak or beyond, with some of the IBs just opening.

Terry Aitken's SAMSON showed a wealth of gold standards and creamy gold falls, with darker shoulders. QUICKEN (Aitken '92), dark blue on white, and LOW LIFE (Aitken '95), with wide, frosted burgundy markings on primrose yellow, provided treats for the plicata enthusiasts. Jayne Ritchie's FRESH START, which was still under seedling number (88-11-9) was a fresh clump of silver ice, with ruffled, round petals complemented by silver beards. George Shoop's FIRST ROMANCE, a reverse peach bicolor, was a dainty addition to George's long line of "dark top" irises.

And another of Bennett Jones' fine blues, BEDFORD LILAC, was a lovely silvery blue, with medium blue fall spots and frost-topped navy beards.

In the IBs, Keith Keppel's GURU invited meditation of its deep royal standards, shoulders, and rims on white falls, all enlightened by hot vermilion beards. Jim and Vicki Craig could be pleased with their TIE DYED TYKE, a lovely lilac violet, with royal purple veins and lighter rims.

The second stop that morning was at Keith Keppel's. The first flowers of red, pink, white, purple and yellow were open on his long rhododendron hedge, and the deciduous azaleas were in full glory, as we worked our way around the guest plantings. My attention was drawn to a pair of Keith's SDB *luminata plicata* sibs, 91-63B and H, in mysterious shades of red-violet and royal purple, with the D sib in contrasting brass tones, and all three with terrific, round form. In gentle contrast were IBs 91-41E, a lilac-mauve, with lilac beard, a sib to the silver lavender LONDONDERRY (Keppel '96), and also a dusty pink sib, 91-41H, with purple midribs and lavender-tipped beard. Among other IBs, Evelyn Jones' marvelous BOLD STROKE looked elegant, with its pure blue petals and navy blue beard.

Terry Aitken's APRICOT DROPS ('95) was a floriferous introduction to the MTB season, with every flower a soft sherbet like its name. Schreiner's SNUGGLE BUG ('93) was dramatic in deep brick red, with a blackened brick spot. Smith 93-06A (MINIDRAGON '98), a ruffled, velvet black-red with a loud tangerine beard, drew enough attention to receive the Best In Region Seedling Award.

After viewing the guests, we made a beeline for Keith's field, where he had left the commercial SDBs in two-year clumps. There is always more to see than can be mastered in one viewing, but no one could miss a twenty foot row of Joe Gatty's SEASON TICKET ('95), a wonderful sunny orange IB in perfect bloom, which justifiably won Best Out of Region Cultivar.

Will and Tracy Plotner at Wildwood Gardens had first-hand experience with the February floods, as the Molalla River inundated their lower garden and carried it off - all the commercial

irises and seedlings, all the daylily stock, and most of their splendid hostas in a small glen below the house. With the flowers went farm equipment and part of their land. In return, the river left silt, rocks and splintered trees. But the guest gardens, backed by tall firs, on the upper level were unscathed and full of great color. Most of the Region 13 cultivars blooming there had already shown off in other gardens - Evelyn Jones' SNOW SEASON, Bennett's CAPTIVE SUN and OREGOLD, Jayne Ritchie's POCO TACO and FRESH START, Schreiner's SNUGGLEBUG, Terry Aitken's SAMSON, and my GEMSTAR. In spite of the river's rampage, Will and Tracy were as hospitable and cheerful as they always are. I know gardeners all around the region offered plants for a fresh start later in the summer.

The final stop was at the expansive two-acre Mountain View Gardens, part of the cattle ranch belonging to John A and Wava Ludi, and their son John W, Kay Ludi, and their families. Mt Hood was not available for viewing on this trip, but the early bloom on the well-grown medians, in their geometric beds, more than made up for it. For the last time, the conventioners sharpened their wits and pencils and took their final notes. A few new faces were blooming among those already familiar, including Schreiner's SEESAW ('95), a yellow SDB with electric blue beards, TOTALLY COOL (Aitken '94), FAVORITE ANGEL (B.Jones '90), a SDB snowfield by itself, and an interest IB plicata seedling by Paul Black, #A119A, which won Best Out of Region Seedling, with an exotic blend of burgundy and purple markings on yellow petals that were almost diamond shaped. The extensive personal Ludi garden was an invitation to wander further, enjoy their collection of irises, dwarf through tall, beardless and species, and enjoy the sunny afternoon, dramatically bracketed by rain squalls, which never arrived. A final bus trip, an excellent buffet dinner and lively auction, and the Median Fix passed into history, leaving us all "well-fed" in every way.

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Out of Region Stars of the Median Fix, Portland

From Jim Morris, Missouri - POOKANILLY, an IB from Sterling Innerst, 1994, was an attractive cream and wine amoena with banded falls and golden beards. I got to see PATRIOT'S GEM (Gadd '93), an aril-bred median of I.B. height. It is gray-blue with darker veining and light smoked-tan edges on the falls. Powder blue beards complete the picture. LIVE COALS (Niswonger '93) is an SDB variegata so bright it fairly shines. FAIRY FUN (Black '95) is a flared, bright yellow MDB with slight brown plicata markings and white fall centers. SKIDDLE (Innerst '94) is a vivid purple SDB with a dark spot and a line of plum down the falls and blue beards. PRINCESS BLUEBEARD (Willott '91) is a pink SDB with blue beards. MOLTON LAVA (Willott '92) is an excellently shaped, red-black SDB with bright gold beards. GLOWING EYES (Willott '93) is a well named lavender-purple SDB with darker eye pattern of rays around the white beards tipped light yellow. JUBAL (Innerst '93) is a nicely ruffled lime yellow with a darker spot and light gold beards which change to blue. SDB PLAY PRETTY (Hager '94) is a very attractive soft peachy pink. PINKIE PAWS (L.Miller '92) is a pink bi-tone SDB with white beards. Her TUFF E NUFF ('94) is a welcome addition to the blue bi-color class of SDBs. HEEPERS (Innerst '92) is a ruffled lavender on cream plicata with cream beards. The look of this SDB is silver and cream. CANDY QUEEN (Niswonger '92) is a peach-pink SDB with open standards which display the interior. Beards are tangerine tipped white. LEARN (Innerst '90) is a light peachy-pink SDB with closed standards.

From Tony and Dorothy Willott, Ohio - Some of the guest irises of interest were: SHELDON BUTT (Niswonger '95), greenish yellow self with startling deep violet-blue beards; LIGHT 'N' EASY (Niswonger '94), creamy pastel blend with brown halo on falls; PEACH PETAL PIE (Niswonger '92), round-petaled ivory peach with deeper hafts; SEEING ORCHID (Boswell '95), a light violet self with orchid veining and cream beards. A really cute little MDB was SPOT IT (Boswell '96), with a greyed-lilac

brown halo on falls; PEACH PETAL PIE (Niswonger '92), round-petaled ivory peach with deeper hafts; SEEING ORCHID (Boswell '95), a light violet self with orchid veining and cream beards. A really cute MDB was SPOT IT (Boswell '96), with a greyed-lilac background, red-violet spot and light violet beards. Other SDBs which caught our attention were SKIDDLE (Innerst '94), full violet with deep violet spot on the falls; SHADOW BOX (Black '95), full violet with a red-violet spot on the falls; FIRESTARTER (Willot '95), ruffled red-violet flushed deeper around red-orange beards; ICE AND INDIGO (Willott '91), a ruffled pale blue with deep blue-violet spot on the falls.

From Keith McNames, Michigan - Also putting on their own show were ACID PRINT (Blyth '91) SDB, lemon with rose plicata with orange beard; ALADDINS FLAME (Messick '93) SDB, golden brown with blue beards; CHANTED (Blyth '90) SDB, Smokey pink with lavender-blue beards; DARK RINGS (Gatty '93) SDB, dark blue/white plicata; MOTTO (Gatty '93) a lighter Gentian blue and white plicata. IBs of interest were CARRIWITCHED (Innerst '93), white trimmed purple; LEMON POP (Lauer '90), bright lemon yellow with white at beards, showing wonderful form. Other eye catchers in the IBs were LET'S ELOPE (Blyth '93), coral standards with violet flush inside, tan falls with red beards; MIDAS PLUSH (Blyth '90), bright gold nicely branched above the foliage; and PRAIRIE THUNDER (Black '90), a really striking aril-bred in violet blue with dark burgundy spot at blue-white beard.

From George Lankow, Washington - Ben Hager had an eye-catcher with his very attractive BLAST ('93), an IB with orange standards and an orange beard resting on velvet purple falls. Lynda Miller had two SDBs that caught our attention. Her perky dark violet self, RAPSCALLION ('95) had about twenty well-placed blooms, and her pink with a darker spot, BOOM BOOM BUNNY ('95) looked good. Dave Niswonger had at least four SDBs in bloom that would make anyone proud. Leading the pack was his large yellow and maroon LIVE COALS ('93). I also like his ruffled deep purple BOLD VIOLET ('94), his blue-violet on white plicata PLUM RIPPLES ('94) and his light blue and pink YAT ROCK ('93), which was showing off its tangerine-tipped beards. 🌸

MASS Medley

Siberian Review

by Terry Aitken

THE MASS MEDLEY (MAD ABOUT SPECIES & SIBERIANS) took place in the dense, deciduous forests that blanket the rolling New England countryside east of Boston, Massachusetts. The Schafer/Sacks garden was considered the master planting. Their house is located at the top of a hill overlooking the iris garden. The slope is dramatically punctuated by large rock outcroppings. Jan and Marty have done an outstanding job of landscaping the entire hillside, using a bewildering array of companion flowers integrated with the many iris types. Guest irises were lined out at the base of the hill with the extensive Schafer/Sacks seedling rows beyond.

Each of the convention gardens was unique. The Smith garden was a very comfortable farm setting featuring ponds along a very picturesque stream. The guest plantings bordered the stream. The Marble garden at Harvard was a camera buff's dream with an endless array of beautiful plantings surrounding huge rocks, with many interesting companion plants among the irises. The Schmieder garden was carefully integrated into the forest setting, with the guest plants very happy in this informal garden. The Fulton garden was also beautifully landscaped with many fine Hostas (some hybridized by Chandler Fulton) as companion plants. In total, this was an aesthetically inspiring tour!

An excellent display of guest irises were in full bloom. Starting off was SNOW PRINCE (Tiffney '90), already famous for its appearance at the National Convention in York, PA last year. The foliage is tiny, perhaps 12", with many ramrod straight vertical bloomstalks rising to 30". Multiple branches distribute a delicate sprinkling of white flowers (1½") up and down the stems. The flowers are close to the species form with upright standards and narrow, recurving falls. Another miniature that actually stole the show was LORENA CRONIN (Cronin '96), which had similar

proportions to SNOW PRINCE but with high contrast violet rim over snow white ground falls. (See color photos) Another miniature, mostly overlooked because it was on its last flower, but certainly the all star novelty of the convention, was NEAT TRICK (White, '97), which follows Allan Enslinger's theme with deep blue purple overlaid with irregular white striations. This is a small plant; early blooming; very floriferous with upright stems, very compact, round, flat flowers which show off its unique pattern very well. (See color photos) This is not entirely an unique pattern, as we discovered in another corner of the garden where we found a nice clump of APPALOOSA BLUE (Bellagamba '86), done in medium light blue dappled lighter blue/white. Schafer/Sacks seedling #S92-13-12 also showed a streaking pattern on a very nice light blue ground.

We saw several plants which I classify generally as raspberry reds with a blue blaze. FISHERMAN'S MORN (Copeland '94) is an excellent example. Its striking feature was the bright aquamarine stylearms. STRAWBERRY FAIR (Hollingworth '94), the star of the 1994 Portland Convention, fits this category. Here, the very round form accentuated by extensive ruffles, sets it apart. This plant is shorter, perhaps 24", with a solid layer of blossoms floating above the foliage. Both branching and sequential stems reinforced its staying power. Another in this group is RASPBERRY RAINBOW (Fulton '96), done in more pastel colors and a very tailored form. The color appears like rings, thus the rainbow. The outer ring is raspberry, then a ring of blue, then a prominent yellow signal which becomes an integral part of the pattern. Upright standards leave the falls to express themselves. This is also a small plant, standing about 30". There are two buds per stem, but with sequential stems. Some very promising seedlings are on their way. Bauer-Coble #S89N2 is a very rich raspberry with intense blue blaze, about 24". Schafer/Sacks #S90-38-2 is a large, robust plant with two branched stems (4 buds), standing at 40". Large, loosely ruffled petals are unique with a "marbled" look (deeper flush following veins). #S90-45-2 was much more pastel with flared ruffling.

As if in transition to the orchid pinks, we found CARELESS SALLY (Schafer/Sacks '96) in a class by herself. Very filly, pastel

orchid standards and round falls were accented by soft blue styles. This is a compact plant with plenty of bloom and a lot of class.

Much progress is being made with orchid pinks towards bigger, broader, showier flowers. Anna Mae Miller's FROSTED CRANBERRY represents a transition from pink towards red and an important breeder for its reddish pink color. Most orchid pinks are amoenas with cream to white standards. CHEERY LYNN (A.M.Miller '91) was a good example. ILLINI ROSE (Varner, not introduced), has very wide, flat compact flowers with minimal signal and a bright blue rib on the styles. AT THE BALLET (Helsley '96) was wide and flared with sequential bloom. SPRINKLES (Bauer/Coble '94) is a very smooth lavender self with a rose flush at the petal base and very healthy foliage. The clump was very floriferous with two branched stems and some sequential stems. MESA PEARL (Bauer-Coble '94) is a tailored, very clean, bright orchid pink. Some very promising seedlings were also in display. Hal Stahly's #93-24 had very wide, round falls in pastel orchid with white standards. Copeland #88-12 was another dramatic variation. Wonderful round falls with a large orchid pink spot surrounded by a white rim was topped off with matching white standards.


There was very limited activity in whites. With so many good ones already available, is it any wonder? Stahly #93-26 was outstanding with interesting feathered white styles and very wide form.

Yellows are proving to be a tough group in which to make progress. We consider PAS DE DEUX (Hollingworth '88) to be the best all around yellow Siberian to date. Schafer/Sacks #S86-2-1 had interesting (for me) feathered styles. Their #S92-87-4 showed wonderful round form. #S90-31-1 showed good width in yellow falls, cream standards, and had a branched stem. HARPSWELL CHANTEUSE (McEwen '92) opens yellow amoena, then fades to white. It has nicely ruffled form with an intense yellow flash at the hafts. It is floriferous, with two branched stems and sequential bloom. Hollingworth #91A2B13 is probably the most intense yellow color yet. Four buds to the stem was encouraging. Plant growth appeared weak in this particular garden, but I will be watching for this plant at future conventions! Many Schafer/Sacks seedlings were also showing promise of progress with yellows for the future.

Many fine blues were doing themselves proud. Briscoe #81-17-C is a light blue with a darker line flash down the center of the falls. It is potentially a good breeder with two branches and a triple top socket. SENECA FEATHER DANCER (Borglum '95) was a light blue with a dramatic deep blue flush at the petal base. No signal was visible. LAKE KEUKA (Borglum '94), another star of the Portland convention, was putting on an outstanding performance. This is a very rich, smooth, bright blue bitone with round, lightly ruffled flowers. JUST BECAUSE (Schafer/Sacks '94) is another very fine smooth mid blue self with excellent compact flowers on good healthy floriferous clumps. In deep blues we saw SILBERKANTE (Tamberg '93), a tetraploid with large flowers on branched stems and big foliage. Nearby was our own WALL STREET BLUES (Aitken '95) with large foliage and loaded with late bloom. The huge clump was obviously happy with its move to the east coast! GLANUSK (Foster '90) is a very rich, deep blue with lighter styles, large flowers. It had three buds and some sequential stems.

One might suspect that everything that could be done with purple Siberians had been done. Not by a long shot! The Bauer-Coble seedling #S85H-REB has intensely saturated deep purple falls with prominent, rich raspberry red stylearms and standards. This one is also supposed to have a rebloom tendency and is definitely worth the price of admission!

With all of these grand champions strutting their stuff in the convention plantings, the icing on the cake was the huge Schafer/Sacks seedling patch. Great progress was evident in many different directions including yellows, blues, raspberry reds, ruffling and branching. The real pioneering work was the yellow-lavender crosses which showed a yellow base color with the lavender overlay. Schafer/Sacks #S92-107-15 seemed to be the best example. (See inside back cover of Oct. 96 Bulletin.)

I came to this convention to learn about what was happening in the Siberian iris world. It was an outstanding experience that went far beyond my expectations. I can well imagine Bee Warburton, sitting on a bench in the shade of the pine trees, smiling. 

Species at the Medley

by Stephanie Markham

SO MUCH GARDEN, SO LITTLE TIME! WE ONLY HAD A COUPLE of hours in Jan and Marty's (Schafer/Sacks) garden, and as far as I was concerned, it wasn't nearly enough. So many of the things growing here were so gorgeous, it got difficult to pick out individuals. First, there were all of the species and species crosses, like an enormous clump of a Sam Norris seedling, 'Pseudacorus', that looked like a medium-sized shrub with bright yellow blossoms, and a huge clump of HOLDEN'S CHILD (Tiffney '91), with its violet flowers sprinkled throughout the clump. The results of what looks like some very interesting breeding between *I. versicolor* and *I. ensata* produced some striking results in ENFANT PRODIGE (Huber R'93), in blue violet with darker veining, a gold signal with a dark rim around it, paler standards and even paler style arms, and NOUVEL AGE (Huger R'92), a darker blue set off by a white line down the center of the falls. Among the seedlings, SP88-100 (Schafer/Sacks) caught my eye, an *I. carthaliniae* seedling with small, white, slender wiry flowers in a healthy clump of grassy foliage.

Our next visit was to the Smiths, who have what I've always wished for – a stream. They've made the most of it by building it into an absolutely perfect setting for the water-loving irises with ponds, bridges in both stone and wood, benches, meandering paths and shady places to sit and enjoy the view.

As you might imagine, things like *I. pseudacorus* and *I. versicolor* love the Smith's garden. These were growing in very large clumps near the edges of the ponds, waving blue, lilac, rose, white and yellow flowers over the water, with the bees busily attending to duty. Tony Huber's *versicolor-ensata* crosses looked lovely here, particularly BELLE PROMESSE, a neat purple with a small green signal, and the blue-violet ENFANT PRODIGE, both registered in 1993. AQUATIC ALLIANCE (Reid '94), an alliance of *I. laevigata* and *I. versicolor*, made an impressive clump with its violet flowers. A nice white *I. pseudacorus*, GORDONVILLE WHITE (Niswonger '95), hovered over one pond, its pure white flowers set off by light purple veining around the signal area.

Terrific Twelve

Favorite Guest Iris at MASS Medley

Favorite Guest Irises	Votes
MESA PEARL	57
CARELESS SALLY	53
LORENA CRONIN	53
TRIM THE VELVET	44
LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER	40
LAKE KEUKA	37
STRAWBERRY FAIR	35
LIBERTY HILLS	30
SILBERKANTE	29
SNOW PRINCE	27
TAMBERG/NISWONGER CS1-93 (Cal-Sibe)	26
JUST BECAUSE	24

M.A.S.S. Medley Awards:

Warburton Cup—

Best Introduced Species Guest

Winner:	Holden's Child (Tiffney '91) - 29 votes
First Runner-up:	Roy Davidson (Hager '87) - 17 votes
Second Runner-up:	Aquatic Alliance (Reid '94) - 13 votes

Tiffney Cup—Best Species Seedling

Winner:	Tamberg/Niswonger CS1-93 - 69 votes
First Runner-up:	Enfant Prodige (Huber, r.'93) - 17 votes
Second Runner-up:	"Hapi Tok" (Bishop) - 2 votes

Foster Cup—Best Introduced Siberian Guest

Winner:	Lorena Cronin (Cronin '96) - 20 votes
First Runner-up:	Careless Sally (Schafer/Sacks '96) - 19 votes
Second Runner-up:	Mesa Pearl (Bauer-Coble '94) - 16 votes
	Trim the Velvet (Schafer/Sacks '96) - 16 votes

McEwen Cup—Best Siberian Seedling

Winner:	Schafer/Sacks S90-13-1 - 18 votes
First Runner-up:	Schafer/Sacks S90-38-2 - 10 votes
	Schafer/Sacks S91-9-1 - 10 votes
Second Runner-up:	Schafer/Sacks S89-16-1 - 8 votes

SJI Convention

St. Louis, 1996

by Lorena M. Reid

I HAD NEVER THOUGHT OF THE MIDWEST AS BEING AN area where growing Japanese Irises would be an option. The limestone which is so prevalent in the area seems to preclude supplying the Japanese irises with the acidity they require. Thanks to the Greater St. Louis Iris Society, which hosted the Society for Japanese Irises convention in June, 1996, I found out that they do a pretty good job. The growers told me that the soil is so heavy that once it is acidified, there is little or no leaching of the limestone upward. The limestone is quite evident in freeway cut banks just a foot or so down from the soil surface.

St. Louis made us welcome with sunshine and moderate (for a midwest summer) temperatures, only 85°-90° (30°C - 33°C), with humidity nearly to match. Those of us who arrived Thursday, June 13th, were treated to a Welcome Buffet that evening in a large roofed patio at the motel. There was time to say hi to iris friends we hadn't seen for awhile, and to meet and greet new iris folk. After eating we adjourned to the auditorium for a slide show of Japanese irises. Riley Probst was at the projector, and showed slides he had taken in St Louis at their pre-convention tours in 1995. Many other conventioners brought slides also, making for an enjoyable performance.

On Friday morning blooms were prepared for the flower show at the motel. Flowers were brought not only by local members, but from as far away as Michigan. It was quite a creditable show. I was particularly interested in the youth display of potted Japanese irises in bloom.

There was not a quorum at the SJI Board Meeting. (Too many of the board members had gone to the Siberian/Species Convention in Massachusetts the same week-end.) Even so, many interesting topics came up and were discussed, if not officially.

Immediately after lunch we boarded tour buses to go to the Missouri Botanic Garden. The Japanese guest beds were behind the climatron, a gigantic domes conservatory-like building with displays of tropical and temperate plants. The Japanese iris bloom was early to mid season, the earliest being finished, but the late season varieties showing only buds. Among the irises making a gorgeous showing were BLUE EMBERS (Ackerman '93), a lovely 3 fall blue; ANYTUS (Innerst '81), a showy 6 fall white; BLUSHING CRIMSON (J. Rich '95), a nicely ruffled red purple with white rays and styles; and DIRIGO DEBUTANTE (J. White '92), a white sanded with violet. The versata (ensata/versicolor) hybrids of Tony Huber were making a fine display. Halos around the signals told of the ensata background while the many branched, many flowered stalks told of the versicolor influence. ENFANT PRODIGY (Huber '93) was especially showy with many blooms open. Two of his seedlings also bear watching in the future, 94-012 with an interesting double halo, and 94-022, purple with darker halo, white styles and white halo around the dark purple halo. There is, it seems, something new under the sun.

I could not look just at the guest iris beds at the Missouri Botanic Garden. The seventy-nine acre enclosed garden would take far more time than we had allotted, but even in the muggy heat I felt it necessary to walk down to the fourteen acre Japanese garden. Blocks of Japanese irises, some blooming, many in bud, were planted in niches along Zigzag Bridge built out into the four acre lake. (See color photo.) Blue Japanese irises were blooming close by the Dobashi Bridge crossing over to the Nakajima Sacred Teahouse Island. Two smaller islands helped set the scene for the formal and casual vistas. Large evergreens had been shape pruned like giant bonsai. Many really exquisite views were reward enough for trekking the more than a mile path all around the lake.

We visited Riley Probst's garden after a cooling ride in our air-conditioned buses. His Japanese irises are growing in ponds, and were doing well. CHIGOKESHO and GEISHA MISCHIEF were lovely, and several guest seedlings were also in bloom. A highlight in Riley's garden was the shade house where

we could observe the garden from a shady spot, watch an automatic Japanese iris slide show, or examine Riley's iris catalog collection. He had all the Marx catalogs!

It was a weary, warm bunch of people the buses delivered back to the motel. After dinner and a look at the iris show we were ready for the Judge's Training on Japanese irises, for which I was the instructor. Since I preferred having live plants for garden judging, we used the potted Japanese irises that had been a youth project for the show, and about five clumps Don Delmez had dug from his garden into five gallon buckets.


Saturday was a big touring day with five gardens scheduled. Alphabetically, the first garden visited was that of Bruce and Chick Buehrig. "Magnificent!" and "Stunning!" are the reviews of those who've seen this two acre garden adjoining a college campus. Chick and Bruce have created wonderful winding paths through wooded areas of mature oaks underplanted with their extensive hosta collection and fascinating azaleas and Japanese maples. A waterfall and tiered ponds near the house showcase native stone and sculpture. Woodland plants are joined with open glades along a dry stream bed where irises and daylilies provide floods of color. In the lowest area of the garden, a stretch of naturalized Japanese irises highlights a stream flowing merrily along. It's a longer walk, but well worth crossing the bridge to see it all! Here WINE RUFFLES and GEISHA PARASOL were showing themselves off well, but the highlight was the clump of JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen '88) with bloom on five stalks. It is a 3 fall wine-red with distinct lighter petal edges. Although high waters early in the spring had flooded the Japanese iris plantings on both sides of the stream, most plants recovered very well. Other blooms I remember in this beautiful garden were IWAO-NO-NISHIKI (Hirao), a 3 fall pink, and MOMOJECTO, a short pale pink with a few lilac veins. The Tony Huber versatas were doing very well here too!

Don and Sue Delmez's garden on a corner lot in St. Charles, though small, perfectly used every inch to advantage. Here Terry Aitken's INK ON ICE ('94), white with purple splashes in the standards, and his RED RINGLETS ('94) were drawing the

attention of many visitors. BELLENDER BLUE (Hazzard '93) and BLUE EMBERS (Ackerman '93) also caused a bit of congestion in the garden paths! A seedling of Don Delmez's, SO-3, was a striking 3 fall pink iris with maroon styles and drew its share of admiration.

The Nyla Hughes garden in Webster Groves packed a lot of plants into a small space also. She has gardened in the same spot for thirty years, and is a real expert. The Japanese irises which caught my attention most here were POPULAR ACCLAIM (Payne '69), a 3 fall white with purple standards, DYNAMIC IMPACT (Delmez '94), dark wine red self, and INK ON ICE (Aitken '94). The Tony Huber versatas here again showed off their "distinctiveness". Although there were no guest irises at the Steve and Susan Smith garden in Kirkwood, it is a place not to be missed. A large koi pool centers attention on the plantings of Japanese irises. Among the standouts in Japanese bloom here were PRAIRIE SILK (Hazzard '69), a 6 fall light purple with darker veining, PINK DIMITY (Reid '89), BLUE SPRITZ (Delmez '96), a 6 fall blue white veined purple, and ISEJI-NO-HARU, a pink 3 fall iris with tall cupped standards.

The Mary Toft garden in Ballwin, though small, is very artistically laid out so that you can see most of the plants in the garden from the wide deck of the house. The Japanese irises are a fairly new feature in this garden. A seedling of Anna Mae Miller, 80-16-19, in light lavender was most attractive. WHITE FLAG, A 6 fall white by Willy Hublau, made a fine clump of bloom. The Huber versatas were doing great here too (the versatile versatas)!

Following the evening banquet Shirley Paquet tickled our well fed funny bones with stories about the history of the Society for Japanese Irises, and the hybridizers of Japanese irises. This was followed by the auction of guest irises, which was the end of the Convention. It was sad to see it all over, but there will always be another convention. Would you believe, the next Japanese iris convention is in Region 13. Hope to see you in my garden! 

High Altitude Iris

Dr Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens

by Russ Sacker

THE BLOOM IN THE TRIAL GARDENS IN 1996 WAS EXCITING. There were many beautiful flowers even though we have some plants that don't like our altitude (6,600 feet above sea level) here in Colorado Springs, CO. Each year it is a challenge to see how many plants will provide us with a display. This article illustrates how plants grow in areas other than the hybridizer's home turf. The categories are listed separately with the names of the top five plants in each of the categories.

Third Year Plants

Tall Bearded: Dr Loomis Award Winner: LY-84-32-2 (Lyons), followed by F-737-D (Rogers); ART NOUVEAU (Messick); ASHLEIGH NICOLE (Pinegar); 87BZX37SA1 (Probst).

Standard Dwarf Bearded: Dr Loomis Award Winner PELE (Aitken). This plant was a real showoff since it had bloom for nearly four weeks. Runners-up were BALLET SLIPPERS (Willott); ICE AND INDIGO (Willott); LOVE MELODY (Willott); SPICE IS NICE (Willott).

Miniature Tall Bearded: BILLIE THE BROWNIE (Burton)

Intermediate Bearded: MALIBU WILDFIRE (Willott); RADIANT BURST (Willott); MAGIC BUBBLES (Willott); ULTRALIGHT (Willott); SUNSHINE BOY (F.Foster)

Miniature Dwarf Bearded: PINK BLINK (Aitken).

Border Bearded: F-933-A (Rogers); MARGARET BEAUFORT (L.Burton); F-905-B (Rogers); 90-13A (Markham); SECRET WEAPON (Markham).

Second Year Plants

Tall Bearded: Dr Loomis Award Winner GNU BLUES (Kasperek); VALLEY SUNSET (Dexter); GNU AGAIN (Kasperek); VIRUS IRIS (Burseen); A-2-2 (Hedgcock).

Standard Dwarf Bearded: Dr Loomis Award Winner BUTTERSCOTCH CARPET (Chapman); IRISH MOSS

(B.Jones); FIRESTORM (M.Smith); ADVANCE DESIGN (B.Jones); PIRATE'S PATCH (P.Black).

Intermediate Bearded: 89SX27EE1 (Probst); CERULEAN FIRE (Palmer); FROSTY ELEGANCE (Palmer); IB 92-1W (J.Morris).

Siberian: LAKE KEUKA (Borglum).

Species: PURPLE CHA-CHA, Versata (Quesnel); KRIEGHOFF, Versicolor (Quesnel); PURPLE POLKA (Quesnel); ENFANT PRODIGE, Versicolor (Quesnel); NOUVEL AGE, Iris X, (Quesnel). This was the first season for these irises to bloom. They grew well, bloomed late in the season and provided the gardens with nice color. 🌸

1996 Affiliates

Continued from p. 74, July Issue

Region 6

Tri-County Iris Society

Rae Johnson, President
3307 N. DeWitt Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879-9712

Region 11

Pollen Daubers Iris Society

Edna Rosenbaum, President
1349 Black Cat Rd.
Kuna, ID 83634

Region 9

Northern Illinois Iris Society

Dr. Joseph Stachniak, President
24 Windsor Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60521

Change of Officers

Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society

Ginny Spoon, President
1225 Reynolds Rd.
Cross Junction, VA 22625

Southwest Oklahoma Iris Society

Mr. Robert Medina, President
825 NW 31st Street
Lawton, OK 73505

Mid-Illinois Iris Society

Nancy Pocklington, President
609 Harrington
Carlinville, IL 62626

Tulsa Area Iris Society

Paul W. Gossett, President
1708 East 53rd Street
Tulsa, OK 74105-5726

Norman Area Iris Society

Louise Carson, President
5037 NW 24th Place
Oklahoma City, OK 73127

Robin Roster

International Robin Anyone?

by Libby Cross

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS A MINOR CHANGE IN the robin rules, which could lead to major improvement in how well our robins travel. The current instructions ask the person sending the robin on to the next name on the route list to "send the director a courtesy card telling when, and to whom, you mailed the robin". A member of one of my regional robins (herself a former robin director) suggested that in lieu of the courtesy card, members should send a copy of their current letter to the director. Thus, if a robin vanishes in the mail or under the clutter on someone's desk, the director will be able to locate the robin, or start it over again. There is the additional benefit of giving the director ample time to extract information from all the letters, to send to the Flight Lines editor, instead of having to do it during the brief time the robin itself is in the director's hands.

The second thing I need to do, is to let everyone know that we have a new Director for the H.I.P.S. Robins. Kathryn Mohr; 111 Washington Rd.; Scotia, NY, 12302-2414, is taking over from Ellie Weikle. If you are a member of a H.I.P.S. Robin that has had glitches in its flight pattern, drop Kathryn a note about it. I'm still looking for anyone interested in an International Robin, and I would still like to see more Regions with local robins flying. If we can boost these two things, we will have covered all the categories of interest listed on the little yellow cards that all new members are given. We do have a photography robin in flight, and just recently the Arts & Crafts robin was launched. The new Fragrance robin will be flying by the first of January 97, and there will still be room for more. I trust that by mid-December all directors will have sent me updated copies of all their route lists. Last but certainly not least, I want to thank all my director for their continued support.

Science Corner

Pollen Study

Studies of Pollen in Iris pumila and Related Species - A Summary Report

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This paper is part of the doctoral dissertation thesis of Anthea M. Stavroulakis, Ph.D.

Introduction

Modern cytotaxonomy of irises was initiated by Randolph and Mitra (1959). *Iris pumila* L. ($2n = 32$), a dwarf bearded iris, is believed to have originated from a cross between *Iris attica* Boiss and Heldr. ($2n = 16$) and *Iris pseudopumila* Tineo ($2n = 16$), forming a new amphidiploid species (Mitra 1956). Amphidiploids are a type of allopolyploid which can arise from hybridization of two species or genera with resulting duplication of the chromosome complement. Recently, cytotaxonomical reinvestigation of this speciation hypothesis was conducted using parental species collected from type locations and *I. pumila* clones obtained from private collections. Molecular studies which involved comparison of ribosomal DNA sequences were also performed, which were similar to studies performed by Arnold, et al. (1990) in the Louisiana irises.

Karyotypic polymorphism and phenotypic variations including plant size, leaf shape and flower color have been observed in

I. pumila and related species (Mitra 1956, Stavroulakis 1992). The first report of $2n = 30$ in *I. pumila* was by Randolph (1947). Numerical polymorphism in chromosomes of *I. pumila* was originally reported as $2n = 30, 31, 32$ (Mitra 1956). Recent studies by Stavroulakis (1992) showed $2n=30, 31, 32$ as well as higher numbers ($2n=33, 34, 38$).

This paper deals with Scanning Electron Microscopic (SEM) studies of pollen grains in the putative parental species (*I. attica* and *I. pseudopumila*) and various tetraploid forms of their alleged hybrids (*I. pumila* and related forms). Studies were made to ascertain whether a correlation existed between cytotaxonomic variations and pollen morphology.

Materials and Methods

Dry anthers of *Iris attica* and *Iris pseudopumila* were removed from flowers and air dried between sheets of glycine paper. Samples of anthers from other species of dwarf bearded irises were provided by Professor John Taylor (Dwarf Bearded Iris Society of America). Weight and measurement of length was recorded for each specimen. Anthers were carefully touched to prepared SEM stubs to release pollen, then coated with layers of carbon and gold/palladium in a Denton DV-502 Vacuum Evaporator. Stubs were placed in the AMR 1000 Scanning Electron Microscope and examined at high and low magnifications with an accelerating voltage of 10 KV.

Results

The walls of pollen grains consist of two distinct layers. The inner layer is known as the intine, and the outer, generally more elaborate layer, is called the exine. The following observations of pollen grain morphology were determined using guidelines described by Erdtman (1943, 1966). All pollen grains examined (Figures 1-7) were monocolpate (1-sulcate), possessing only one furrow, which is characteristic of monocotyledons, resembling Type VIIIA. The exine surfaces were ornamented as Type C

(Erdtman 1943). Small rods with rounded swollen top ends known as pila were observed on the exine surfaces.

In a few specimens, pila (bacula) were more dense (Figures 6 and 7). Variability in the density of bacula was noted in *I. pumila* clones designated as Hanselmeyer #25 (Figure 6) and Werckmeister W-28 (Figure 7), which showed a more convoluted (textured) nexine surface as well as karyotype variability [Hanselmeyer #25 ($2n = 31,38$); Werckmeister W-28 ($2n = 30$)]. Evidence of chromosome rearrangements (somatic exchange, acentric fragment) and chromosomal heteromorphism was observed in these clones. Similar observations were previously reported by Randolph and Mitra (1959) who proposed a mechanism for reduction in somatic number in 30 chromosome *Iris pumila* clones through chromosome alterations. The authors suggested that karyotypic genomic changes could have resulted from a reciprocal translocation and subsequent elimination of one small centric fragment (a small chromosome with a centromere).

Uniformity in anther weights and lengths was observed in available specimens. However, no appreciable size differences were found in several tetraploid forms of *Iris pumila* compared with putative parental species. Larger pollen grain size was observed in amphidiploid *Iris versicolor* by Copeland and Buthala (1981) using a single tetraploid species in their study. Additional analyses of these species may reveal further differences.

Discussion

In general, all dwarf bearded iris specimens examined shared similar size, shape and exine pattern, consistent with the conservative nature of pollen. Biosystematic studies conducted by Cholewa and Henderson (1984) in *Sisyrinchium* section Bermudiana (Iridaceae), which included hybrids, revealed little interspecific variability in pollen grain surface texture. Interestingly, SEM studies of seed testae in various species of *Sisyrinchium* revealed three distinct textural patterns, one being a combination of the first two. Studies of *Iris reticulata* pollen by

Heslop-Harrison and Heslop-Harrison (1993) included detailed analysis of exine and intine layers.

Pollen surface morphology is a significant character owing to the complementary relationship among the pollen grain, pollinator and stigma. Diversification patterns observable in pollen spores augment phylogenetic studies, supplementing available information regarding relationships among groups (Kim et al., 1994). Ultrastructural studies of pollen have enabled taxonomists to compare fossil pollen types with extant angiosperm pollen, thereby assisting cladistic analysis (Doyle and Hotton, 1993). Previous studies of pollen ultrastructure evolution included comparative analysis of external morphology of primitive angiosperms in the ranalean complex (Walker 1974; Walker and Skvarla, 1975).

A review of the literature revealed limited studies focusing on monocot pollen (Halbritter and Hesse, 1993). Recent demonstration of influences such as genetic background, ploidy level and their interaction in *Zea mays* (Sothworth and Pfahler, 1992) as well as in *Celosia* (Chaturvedi et al., 1993) correlated genomic polymorphism with pollen polymorphism. A correlation between chromosome number and exine morphology was shown in amphidiploid *Iris versicolor* by Copeland and Buthala (1981).

However, the present study did not reveal such detectable differences. Variation in aperture number or size was not observed among the specimens. Furthermore, no correlation between bacula density and chromosome number was observed in *I. pumila* clones with great variability in chromosome number used in the present study. On the other hand, differences in pila and bacula density observed in *I. pumila* (Figures 6 and 7) could be indicative of phenotypic expression of their genomic variation. In a recent study, Vorsa and Ortiz (1992) reported that the mature unreduced ($2n$) pollen of the aneuploid ($2n=4x+9=57$) blueberry (*Vaccinium ashei* / *V. corymbosum*) was significantly longer than the pollen of the $4x$ cultivar Bluecrop. They also found that the elongate shape was characteristic of $2n$ pollen. The studies by Copeland and Buthala (1981) detected a larger size pollen and exine surface differences in amphidiploid *Iris versicolor*. In *Licula*, different ecological

conditions were proposed as factors for observed variations in exine patterning (Ambwani and Kumar, 1993). Similarly, variation of pollen morphology in amphidiploid *Sonchus oleraceus* suggested that environmental conditions could have played a role in the expression of a particular patterning (Mejias and Diez, 1993).

Although an overall and apparent uniformity of pollen morphology was revealed in dwarf bearded irises used in this study, additional observations on pollen grains would be necessary in all four subgenera of the genus *Iris* to establish whether a correlation between pollen size/morphology and karyotype polymorphisms exists among the species belonging to different subgenera or different subsections. Assessment of intraspecific variation within and between populations would be needed to further support these observations. This information will be of great relevance to taxonomy of irises.

However, it still remains to be seen whether there are minute alterations in chromosomes, in addition to or in the absence of gene mutations, which may be responsible for variation in pollen morphology that mere karyotype analysis may not reveal.

Dedication

This paper is dedicated to the memory of Evangeline Stella Stavroulakis and Stephen Milo Janes.

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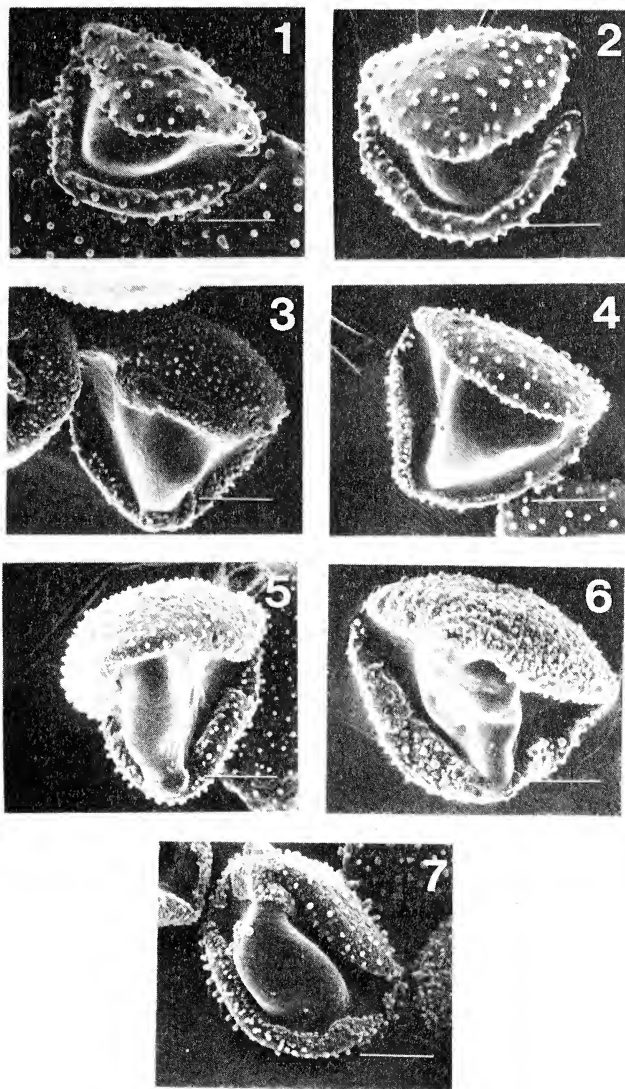
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Ms. Anthea M. Stavroulakis, Ph.D. studied species relationships in several dwarf bearded irises, and earned her doctorate degree at New York University working with Dr. J. Mitra, a former student of L.F. Randolph, who studied Iris cytogenetics at Cornell University. Currently, Dr. Stavroulakis is an Assistant Professor of Biology in the Department of Biological Sciences at the Kingsborough Community College campus of The City University of New York. Recent interests include developing curriculum in an urban community college and conducting plant research with a variety of plant species.



Figures 1-7: Scanning Electron Micrographs of *Iris* spp. pollen grains (1000X).

- (1) *Iris attica* ($2n = 16$)
 - (2) *Iris pseudopumila* ($2n = 16$)
 - (3) *Iris pumila* clone Taylor M125-C ($2n=32$)
 - (4) *Iris pumila* clone Cretica ($2n = 30$)
 - (5) *Iris pumila* clone Kuban #205 ($2n = 30$)
 - (6) *Iris pumila* clone Werckmeister W-28 ($2n=30$) Note convoluted pattern of nexine.
 - (7) *Iris pumila* clone Hanselmeyer #25 ($2n=31,38$) Note convoluted pattern of nexine.
- Bar = 25 μm .

AIS Awards

Part II: Japanese Iris

W.A. PAYNE MEDAL (Tie!)

EDGE OF FROST (M. Dienstbach) 46 votes

KALAMAZOO (A. Hazzard) 46 votes

runners-up

IAPETUS (S. Innerst) 39 votes

ELECTRIC RAYS (T. Aitken) 30 votes

Award of Merit

BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT (T. Aitken) 85 votes

LITTLE SNOWMAN (A. Vogt) 27 votes

runners-up

AMETHYST WINGS (W. Ackerman) 26 votes

SILVERBAND (Bauer-Coble) 24 votes

Honorable Mention

BELLENDER BLUE (Bauer-Coble) 36 votes

EPIMETHEUS (S. Innerst) 28 votes

PINK DACE (J. Copeland) 27 votes

CASCADE STORM (L. Reid) 25 votes

CASCADE SPRING DRESS (L. Reid) 21 votes

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Flight Lines

Excerpts from Round Robins
by Dana Glaser

Robin Excerpts

Reblooming Robin #6

Clarence Mahan: I joined Email Historic Iris Robin, the first robin on the Internet! Paradoxical that the historic iris enthusiasts would be the first to fly in cyberspace. To subscribe contact Tom Little using: telp@Rt66.com. My online address is CEMahan@aol.com.

Estelle Trammell: North Coastal CA -- It is cold and rainy here. The only T.B. blooming this cold, wet spring is *Immortality*. The medians are blooming, *Blitz* was the first to open and is still going strong after 3 weeks. Next was *Precious Little Pink*, then *Country Blues*, a gorgeous bitone. *Lady Bug Pink* opened yesterday. So far, no rust or mildew problems. Most are in raised beds, but planted too close together, because of my space problem.

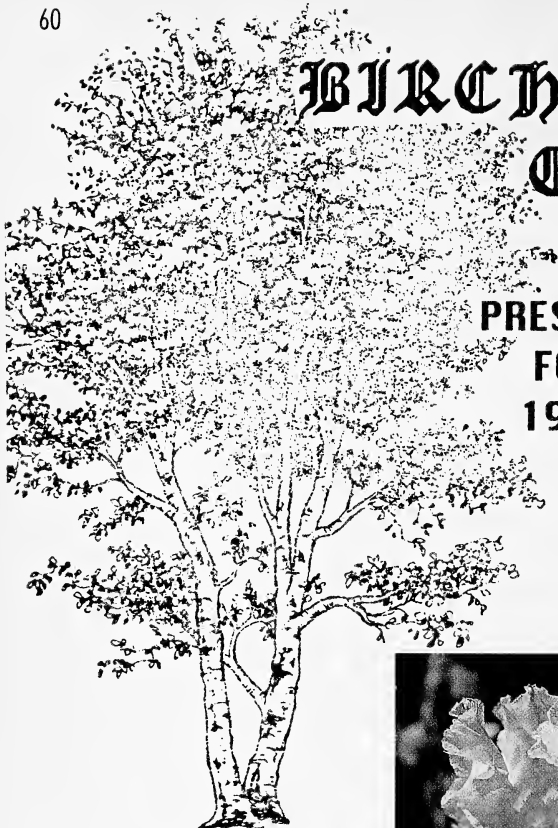
Notice to all Robiners ... I need more robins to excerpt from. Please send me a copy of your robin so flight lines can keep flying! It is a joy to receive info from all over the country ... help keep the lines flying ...

Thank you

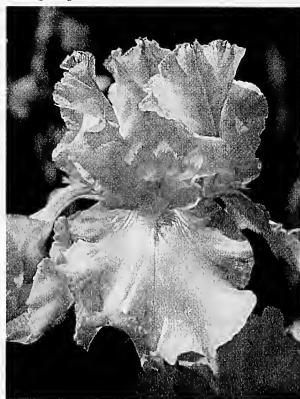
Dana Glaser, Rt. 2, Box 328, Buckholts, TX 76518
817-593-4108

BIRCHWOOD GARDENS

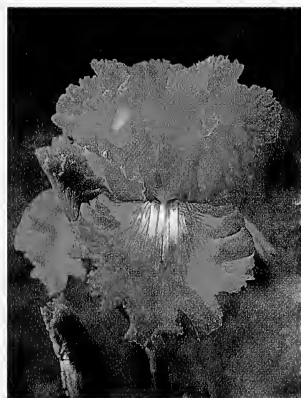
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Versata x I. ensata



Vicki





John Kent

Reeds in a field of Pacific Coast Native iris at Sea Ranch, California



Carla Lonkow



Mysterious Monique (Knoepnadel '92)
I. versicolor SDLG x unknown



Darrell Probst SE 88-1 (Species = I. setosa)

Andrew Wheeler checks pollen on iris pseudacorus
at the Smith garden on the M.A.S.S. Medley tour



Enfant Prodigé
(Huber '93) Spec X
Versata x *I. ensata*

Tamberg-Niswonger CSI-93
(Species Cal-SIB)



Vicki In Reeds in a field of Pacific Coast Native iris at Sea Ranch, California



Mysterious Monique (Knoepnadel '92)
I. versicolor SDLG x unknown



Darrell Probst SE 88-1 (Species = *I. setosa*)

Andrew Wheeler checks pollen on *iris pseudacorus*
at the Smith garden on the M.A.S.S. Medley tour



Jones Garden

Marky Smith

Best in Region SDLG.



Photo By Aiken

90-064 (Mini Dragon)
(Marky Smith '98) SDB

Bold Stroke (Evelyn Jones '93) 1B



Marky Smith

Best out of Region



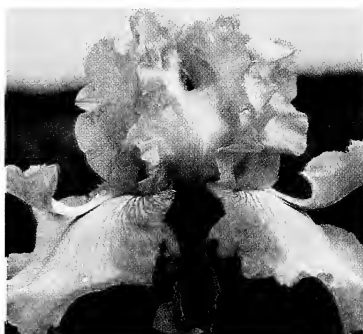
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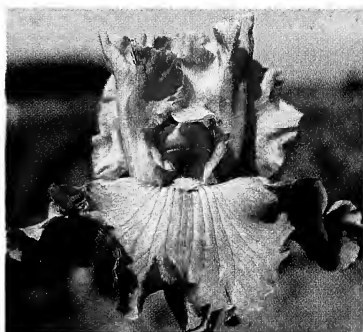
Sutton's
Green Thumb



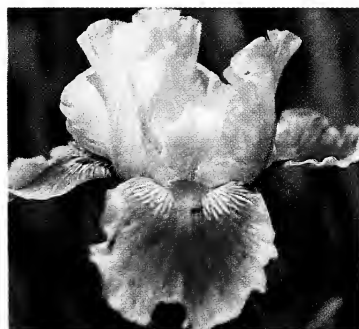
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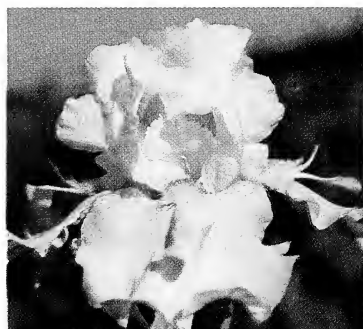
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Design Corner

Fall Happenings

by Carolyn Hawkins

IT IS TIME TO START PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING FLOWER shows and everyone is looking for new types of designs to use in their show schedules. The following designs possibly will help you out and there is still time to get them in the schedules.

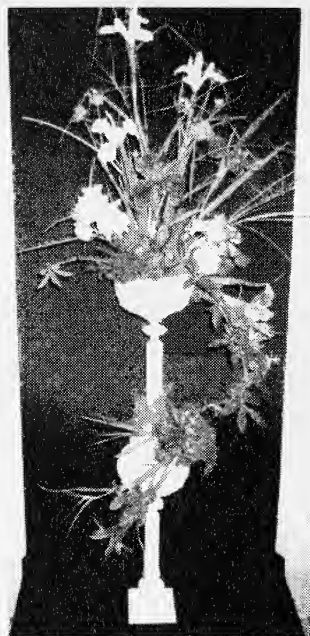
Do start your flower show planning in January for an April show or in February for May show. Why? With our busy lifestyles the more time you have to organize, the better. We all know we are going to have a show and many know exactly where the show will be—the date is all set. Or you are still looking for a location? Remember, AIS now has a blanket insurance to cover that requirement for many locations so get your date set now (the best time to schedule a flower show is at peak bloom time, of course, but the day you are having this year's show schedule for next year at the same time—then they will have you locked in).

Pictures 1 and 2 are designs created using two containers. Picture 1 is a traditional design using two different sizes and shapes of containers but the unifying ingredients are that both containers are black and the same flowers/foilage are used in both designs. The containers are placed closely together and the iris foliage bends over to “connect” the two separate designs. As I recall this class was in the oriental manner (which is the politically correct way to identify the class without getting into the technical world of Japanese flower arranging which is very precise). Louisiana iris were used in this design.

Picture 2 was done by Roy Mixon (and won Best in Show) and you will note the containers are identical and are stacked one on top of the other. He carefully handled his plant material in a manner to create a flowing line from the top urn to the bottom urn, repeating the use of the same plant material. White containers



Picture 1



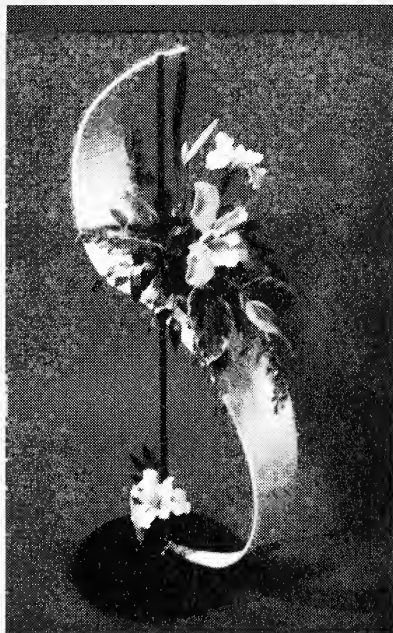
Picture 2

often cause a dominance problem as they are so overpowering and “steal” your eye from the flowers. Roy covered the containers with enough plant material to control this dominance. Both of these designs were in a flower show in Milledgeville, Georgia and a mixture of different types of iris were used.

Picture 3 is another traditional design with two designs but less emphasis is made on their separation. One is higher; the other is lower but 3 pieces of 4 x 4 post lumber was used as the containers, with one post only “assisting” the other two. The post lumber was cut at different heights, grooved and stained to create attractive components to use separately, stacked, turned sideways, etc. The base is a piece of slate roofing and the duck seems very happy floating there. Let’s pretend this is an entry in a flower show and the class description is: “Design in two containers with emphasis on the use of iris. Accessories permitted.” The design is in conformance. Using the principles of design you would judge the balance (it appears to be straight and not lopsided), proportion (it fits the space), scale (the flowers and leaves are in scale to each other and not too big or too small), rhythm is indicated by the




Picture 1



Picture 2

turning to one side or the other of the flowers and foliage and your eye flows through the entire design, dominance (the flowers are the dominant material—or possibly you will feel the leaves are dominant), contrast is created by the leafy feathery foliage and the smooth petals of the bulbous iris (Dutch iris) and unity is controlled by the use of the plant materials all through the two designs. The purple iris, green foliage and brown duck and containers provide contrast. The two areas of possible faults are in the creative expression and distinction. The question of this being a traditional placement of plant materials and whether that comprises creativity is a serious one. The duck adds distinction but he may be too big for the design. A red ribbon would probably be in order for this design and hopefully you can follow this judging decision through all of the scale of points.

The design in Picture 4 is not really two designs but the container is so unique and would be a great idea to use or to adapt your own creative skills and do something similar. The dowel holds a piece of art foam board which has been cut on the diagonal. It was then carefully bent with slight score marks appearing and

curved to fit down over the dowel. The flowers were inserted into wrapped oasis to prevent water leakage and carefully adhered to the foam board. The severity of the white could be a problem but the plant material covers enough of it to keep it from being overpowering. This was created by the Designers Study Club in Atlanta and used as a centerpiece for banquet tables. It is interesting and attractive and other forms could be created using this material. Art foam board is also available in colors and should be available where art supplies are sold. This is an original, creative design—can you come up with other ideas? If so, send me the information and let's share it with all of AIS. Send to Carolyn Hawkins, 7329 Kendel Court, Jonesboro, GA 30236. 

Favorite Guest Iris 1996 AIS National Convention

There were 311 people who voted with 702 different iris being named as their favorite. Conventioneers voted for 15 iris.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Hybridizer</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Votes</i>
JURASSIC PARK	Larry Lauer,	'95	TB	111
KATHLEEN KAY NELSON	Ben Hager	'93	TB	64
YAQUINA BLUE	Schreiners	'92	TB	59
HAIL THE CHIEF	Lilly Gartman	'95	TB	59
CHERRY LANE	Glenn Corlew	'93	TB	50
HOT CHOCOLATE	Joseph Ghio	'95	TB	43
PINK QUARTZ	Vernon Wood	'96	TB	43
BALTIC STAR	Harold Stahly	'94	TB	41
KALIFA'S HORN	Bob Annand	'95	AB¼	40
WINI CONKLIN	Jim McWhirter	'96	TB	40
CHEATING HEART	Keith Keppel	'94	TB	40
PANAMA HATTIE	Jim Begley	'95	TB	39
HELLO DARKNESS	Schreiners	'92	TB	38
DEGAS DANCER	Schreiners	'94	TB	38
WHO'S WHO	Mary Dunn	'96	TB	37

Opal Brown

A Tribute

by Richard W. Johnson



OPAL BROWN—SHE IS A GEM OF A LADY SYNONYMOUS with her name, and a well known iris hybridizer to most of us in the American Iris Society. When I asked Opal how she got started hybridizing, her response was “I just wanted to try it”. This was fifty years ago when she lived in Marysville, Washington, and she has been hybridizing ever since then.

The next year, 1948, Opal and her husband Tom moved to Walla Walla, Washington, where she continued her hybridizing, primarily tall bearded irises, and established BROWN’S SUNNYHILL GARDENS on their four – five acres there. (As a sideline, she also hybridized daffodils from 1948 until 1984.) In 1970 the Browns moved across the state border from Washington to her current location on about one and one half acres in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. They re-established the iris garden, retaining the original name. Opal was an active member of the American Iris Society, one of the early garden judges in Region 13 and when she reached Master Judge status, was the second Master Judge in Region 13.

Opal’s first introduction was a tall bearded, ALTAR LIGHT, in 1954, which became a runner-up for Award of Merit in 1956 and was winner of the third Premio Firenze Award in Italy. Since that time, Opal has introduced 172 irises. Her command for excellence and discriminating eye have produced some of the most beautiful irises introduced for nearly half a century, many of which have received American Iris Society recognition. Opal’s irises have been awarded fourteen Awards of Merit and ninety Honorable Mentions. She was awarded the Dykes Medal in 1967 for her 1964 tall bearded introduction WINTER OLYMPICS, and the

Knowlton Award in 1965 for her laced metallic-brown Border Bearded BAYADERE ('62). In 1968 she was presented with the AIS Hybridizer's Medal. Her TB, BLUE LUSTER ('73), has been on the popularity polls for over twenty years, and ROSE CARESS ('77) received the British award "Highly Commended by the The Royal Horticultural Society and British Iris Society.

Of Opal's many creations her favorite is her tall bearded QUEEN OF HEARTS ('74), a heavily laced buff-pink which also became a runner-up for the Dykes Medal.

I have never asked Opal directly what her advice would be to beginning hybridizers. However, I believe it would be "If it is not something different or better than what is already on the market, grow it if you like, enjoy it, but don't introduce it".

In addition to her many awards Opal has reaped many rewards. She has the respect and admiration of her peers and takes pleasure in the knowledge that her creations have captured the imagination of iris fanciers and been enjoyed the world over. We in the Walla Walla Iris Society have been both privileged and honored by her long affiliation with our club. ♪



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For 1997

reported by Glenn Corlew

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RM: Retired Master
E: Emeritus

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G Deborah Wheeler
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G John W. White
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G Peter J. Young

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 G Charlotte Keasey
 E Keith Keppel
 G Carla Lankow
 AM George F. Lankow
 RM Evelyn R. Lemire
 G Mrs. Ted Lind
 G John W. Ludi
 G Clyde Mead
 G Johnnie Lee Mead
 AM Duane E. Meek
 AM Joyce Meek
 G Mrs. William E. Moritz
 RM Roger R. Nelson
 AM Frank H. Nickell
 AM Warren E. Noyes
 AM Mercedes Olsen
 AM Donald L. Peterson
 RM Fern E. Pilley
 G William E. Plotner
 E* Lorena M. Reid
 AM Gerald L. Richardson
 RM Jayne Ritchie
 AM David Schreiner
 AM Ray Schreiner
 E Robert Schreiner

AM Doris E. Shinn
 AM David Silverberg
 RM Mrs. S. M. Sisley
 G Marky D. Smith
 RM Chet W. Tompkins
 RM Mrs. Lewis Trout
 G Elaine Ward
 E Jean G. Witt

Region 14

AM Carl H. Boswell
 AM Mrs. Carl H. Boswell
 G Anna Cadd
 G David Cadd
 G Stanley R. Cherniss
 G Stanley Coates
 AM Mrs. Jack H. Cochran
 AM Mrs. Mark Condo
 AM Glenn F. Corlew
 RM Mrs. John Coscarelly
 G Walter Dean
 G Christine Dickenson
 E Sidney P. Dubose
 AM Mrs. Robert L. Dunn
 G Mrs. Gustav R. Erickson
 G Abe Feuerstein
 E Joseph J. Ghio
 G Trudy Graber
 E Ben A. Hager
 RM Mrs. Robert E. Haley
 AM Gigi Hall
 AM Marilyn R. Harlow
 AM Merry L. Haveman
 AM Evelyn Hayes
 AM Marilyn Holloway
 G Michael O. Howard
 A Jay Hudson
 AM Berkeley Hunt
 G Barry Ivens
 A Roger Jensen
 G Daniel W. Johnson
 G J. Nelson Jones
 G Frederick J. Kerr
 AM Virginia Keyser
 A Marcy Lauer
 G Richard Lauer
 G Kitty Loberg
 A Joanne McGrew
 RM Maryann Manning
 AM William R. Maryott
 G Ed Matheny III
 AM Hal Mattos
 G Mary T. Maxwell
 AM Mrs. William Messick

AM Jean Near
 G Gordon Nicholson
 G Lorraine Nicholson
 AM Mrs. R. Nelson
 Nicholson
 G Mrs. John D. O'Brien
 G Yolanda Olsen
 AM Capt. M. C. Osborne
 G Cloudia Owen
 G William T. Owen
 A Joyce Ragle
 G Donna Parker
 A Norma Jean Paul
 AM Fred C. Parvin
 A Harold S. Peters
 AM Lucile Ray
 G Alan D. Robbins
 G Patricia Saffell
 E W. F. Scott, Jr.
 G Mrs. James Shelton
 G* George H. Sutton
 G Margaret Sutton
 G Richard A. Tasco
 RM Mrs. Sven I. Thoolen
 G Mrs. Arnold S. Todd
 G Shirley Trio
 G Mrs. Hiromi Uyeda
 G Carole Vossen
 G Lee Wald
 G Howard Wald
 AM Mrs. W. G. Waters
 AM Dr. John Weiler
 AM Edith P. Wheeler
 G Barbara Whitely
 G James Whitely
 AM Bryce Williamson
 AM Vernon Wood
 G Sharon Wylie

Region 15

A Gail Barnhill
 E Mrs. William E. Barr
 G Irene Benton
 AM Bob Brooks
 G Peggy Carpenter
 RM Mrs. N. R. Carrington
 G Hazel E. Carson
 RM Janice Chesnik
 G J. C. Conklin
 AM Ralph Conrad
 G Mrs. Ralph Conrad
 G Ladona Cypret
 G Olen Joe Daugherty
 RM Mrs. Donald Dopke

A Greta B. Dunnigan
 RM F. Duncan Eader
 A Eileen Fiumara
 RM Doris Foster
 AM Mrs. Harry B. Frey
 A Jim Giles
 RM Ruth Goodrick
 G Georgia I. Gudykunst
 G* Dr. Herbert C. Holk
 G Mrs. Herbert C. Holk
 AM Debbie Humphreys
 G James H. Jones
 G Ardi Kary
 E Harry B. Kuesel
 G Marjorie Larson
 RM Eleanor McCown
 G Lynn McIlwain
 G Mrs. David Mogil
 AM Dr. Edward Murray
 E Mrs. Edward Owen
 G Jeanne C. Plank
 G James Puckett
 G John H. Reinschmidt
 G Bill Rinehart
 RM Beulah Robinson
 G Ollie Rust
 G D. L. Shepard
 G Mrs. D. L. Shepard
 G Gerald Snyder
 A Mary Ann Spurlock
 A Hilward Stenson
 RM Kay Tearington
 G Jane Troutman
 E Marion R. Walker
 G Jack Weber

Region 16

G Catherine Boyko
 G Chuck Chapman
 G Harold R. Crawford
 AM Verna Laurin
 G Daniel P. McMillen
 G* Gloria McMillen
 G James McMillen
 G Ken Viner

Region 17

A E. A. Addington
 G Robert W. Alexander
 G Alene Arnold
 G Venetia Beckhusen
 G Dr. L. M. Begley
 G Dana Brown
 A Vernon Brown

AM Mrs. Lawrence Burt
 E Marie Caillet
 G J. Farron Campbell
 G Edna Carrington
 RM Dr. Jesse W. Collier
 E Mrs. Walter Colquitt
 G Billie G. Corbell
 AM Jim D. Coward
 AM Luella Danielson
 G Dee Davis
 RM Mrs. Martin Dean
 G Mrs. Curtis B. Evans
 G Dana Glaser
 RM Mrs. Doyle Gray
 G Gordon Green
 AM Hazel M. Haik
 AM Mrs. Charles A. Howard
 G Jim Keefe
 AM Mrs. Vernon H. Keesee
 RM Mrs. Harley L. King
 G* Peggy Lamb
 RM W. D. Lee
 E Mrs. J. Arthur Nelson
 G Bonnie Nichols
 AM Hooker Nichols
 RM Mrs. M. W. Norton, Jr.
 E Mrs. Stayton Nunn
 G Joella R. Olson
 RM William K. Patton
 G Dorothy D. Pfärner
 RM Sam Reece
 E Mrs. C. C. Rockwell, Jr.
 G Patsy L. Rosen
 G Charlene Seifert
 RM Mrs. Otis R. Skinner, Jr.
 G Keith Smith
 RM Frank L. Stephens
 G Debra Strauss
 G Ellen Sullivan
 RM Mrs. A. M. Tallmon
 G Mary Wilber
 RM Mrs. N. W. Williams
 AM Mrs. Leon C. Wolford

Region 18

G Donna Aldridge
 G Mrs. L. E. Anderson
 G Alvin Apsher
 A Patricia Ardisoone
 G Nancy Barnum
 G Jan Bates
 AM Mrs. August Bellagamba
 RM Clifford W. Benson

G Patricia Bitzer
 G Vincent Bitzer
 AM Chester Blaylock
 AM Roy Bohrer
 AM Mrs. Roy Bohrer
 AM Harry J. Boyd
 AM Mrs. Harry J. Boyd
 A Jessica Lynn Braeuner
 A Mrs. Donald Braeuner
 G Lee Charlton
 A Paul Charlton
 G Louie Chestnut
 RM Mrs. James Lee Chism
 G Jon Marc Cliburn
 G Donald Delmez
 AM Dolores Denney
 G Ralph H. Dierkes
 G Mrs. Ralph H. Dierkes
 G Geneva Dies
 AM Mrs. Julius Dutton
 G Frances Evans
 A Barbara Fouts
 G Kevin Gormley
 AM Norman Gossling
 G* Mike Hargrove
 G Jim Hedgecock
 RM Calvin H. Helsley
 RM Annabel Hennrich
 A Nyla Hughes
 G Dan Isbell
 G Vince Italian
 G Mitch Jameson
 RM Rev. Robert R. Jeffries
 A Denyse Johnson
 G Audrey Judy
 G Dan C. Judy
 G Joan Kellar
 AM Mrs. Edwin W. Knight
 G Doris Loveland
 G James Loveland
 AM Mrs. Robert Mark
 A Quinton Marshall
 AM Mrs. M. J. McHugh
 G Kevin J. Morley
 AM James W. Morris
 AM Mrs. James W. Morris
 G James Murrain
 AM O. D. Niswonger
 AM Katherine Perry
 G Robert Pries
 G Riley Probst
 AM James Rasmussen
 AM Helen E. Reynolds

AM Mrs. Robert H.
Robinson
AM Elvan E. Roderick
RM Mrs. Elvan E. Roderick
G Barbara Schuette
G Stephen P. Smith
G Susan H. Smith
G Mrs. Von Smith
G Mrs. Herman Stedman
G Stephen Stevens
G Mrs. Stephen Stevens
G Eric Tankesley-Clarke
G Robert Tankesley-Clarke
A Dennis Van Landuyt
AM Annette J. Vincent
G Dr. James W. Waddick
G C.L. Walz
RM George W. Warner, Jr.
G Patricia Williamson
G Annabelle Wiseman
G Mary Wyss

Region 19

AM Elizabeth Aulicky
RM Raymond J. Blicharz
G Chun Fan
G Erin Marie Griner
G Joseph J. Griner
G Margaret Griner
A Martha Ann Griner
G James P. Holmes
RM Dr. Norman H. Noe
AM C. B. Reeves, Jr.
AM Mrs. C. B. Reeves, Jr.
G Ellen Robertson
G* Raymond J. Rogers
AM Nancy Szmuriga
G Mary R. Townsend
E Elizabeth A. Wood

Region 20

G Lowell Baumunk III
A* Glenna Chapman
G Duane W. Daily
G Kayellen R. Daily
AM Mrs. Richard E. Doty
E Dr. Jack R. Durrance
G R. M. Eacker
G Mrs. R. M. Eacker
AM Frank J. Foster
G Catherine Long Gates
G Dennis B. Gates
AM Joseph H Hoage
AM Mrs. Morris James

G Annje C. Jensen
RM Dr. Carl Jorgensen
G Jerilyn Knudtson
G John Knudtson
G Roy G. Krug
G Barbara Lewis
E Everett Long
RM Ray D. Lyons
AM Thomas L. Magee
G Suzanne McCarthy
G Michael W. McCarthy
G David G. Miller
G Michael Moller
G Nina Moller
G Patricia Morgan
RM Mrs. Tolbert E. Murphy
AM Mrs. Dwane Quinn
AM Mrs. L. E. Roberts
A Robert E. Stetson II
RM E. E. Varnum
G Verona Wiekhorst
G Warren Wiekhorst

Region 21

AM Mickey Anson
AM Ardeth J. Bailey
AM Irene H. Boardman
G Marion Burleigh
RM C. T. (Chuck) Claussen
RM Signey Claussen
AM James L. Ennenga
E Allan G. Ensminger
G Mary Ferguson
G Vincent Fox
G Mrs. Vincent Fox
RM Mrs. Freudenburg
RM Anne M. Gaddie
RM Gene Gaddie
AM Larry Harder
RM Mrs. A. J. Harvey
AM Charles C. Hemmer
AM Mrs. Charles C.
Hemmer
G Michael C. Hemmer
G Patrick R. Hemmer
AM Lester Hildenbrandt
RM Mrs. Leon N. Hockett
RM Jim Hummel
RM Vera Hummel
AM Marjorie Jansen
G Leslie Jobe
G Wayne Jobe
G Dorothy M. Johnson
G Eugene J. Kalkwarf

G Richard Kohout
G Carolyn D. Lingenfelter
RM Barbara Mapes
RM Evangeline Martindale
AM Roger P. Mazur
G LeRoy Meininger
RM Mrs. N. S. Pederson
A Neal E. Pohlman
G* Calvin H. Reuter
G V. O. Sellers
RM Mrs. Kempton Settle
G Tim Stanek
G Barrett Stoll
G Lynn Stoll
G Henry Wulf
G Opal Wulf

Region 22

RM Wiley Abshire
G Ann D. Barrows
G LaVera Burkett
RM Mrs. Michael Birkholtz
AM Paul W. Black
G Doris Boyles
RM Richard Butler
G Dorothy I. Cantwell
G Ray Cantwell
G Louise Carson
A Peggy Chumley
G Barbara H. Cox
RM C. A. Cromwell
G Tom W. Dillard
AM Mrs. C. Wayne Drumm
AM Perry Dyer
G Judith Earp
RM Mrs. Dan Edelman
G Leigh M. Ellis
AM Mrs. Howard Estes
A M. D. Faith
A Carol Goldsberry
G Paul W. Gossett
G Bonnie Hadaway
G Debbie Hassell
G Tim Hassell
AM James Hawley
AM Rilla M. Hickerson
G Nona Hoecker
G Maryann Holman
E Mrs. Robert C. Howard
G Mrs. J. H. Jamieson
G Tom Johnson
G Helen Jones
RM Dr. W. E. Jones
RM Mrs. Charles E. Kenney

G Bea Leach
 AM Betty Lou McMartin
 G F. W. McVicker
 A Robert Medina
 AM Leonard J. Michel
 RM Richard E. Morgan
 E* Ronald Mullin
 E Perry L. Parrish
 G Kathy L. Poore
 G Randy Renner
 RM Mrs. William M. Rhodes
 AM Henry C. Rowlan
 G James W. Russell
 AM Marthella Shoemaker
 G Ruth B. Simmons
 G Aline Smith
 G Fred J. Smith
 G James K. Smith
 G Mary A. Smith
 RM Susie Smith
 RM Mrs. Cyrus Stanley
 RM L. D. Stayer
 RM Mrs. L. D. Stayer
 G Philip Stonecipher
 G Mrs. Philip Stonecipher
 G June Tomlinson
 G Dana Wade
 G Mary P. Watson
 G Leeroy E. Will
 G Bea Williams
 G Mrs. John H. Williams

Region 23

G* Karen Bergamo
 AM Mrs. Milton J. Clauser
 G Bill R. Coursey
 G Phil Doonan
 G Sara Doonan
 AM Mrs. Roger Figge
 AM Wilma Freidline
 G Doug Goodnight
 G Dorothy Gordon
 RM Mrs. Earl Gould

A William S. Huey
 G Reita Jordan
 G Dr. Scott Jordan
 RM Mrs. Douglas Latimer
 AM Robert A. Mallory
 G Alma Maxwell
 RM J. E. McClintock
 G Peter McGrath
 RM George A. Nickel
 G Maxine Perkins
 G Patricia Randall
 G Audrey C. Roe
 AM Mrs. Howard Shockey
 G Suzanne Sluizer
 RM Mrs. Robert D. Steele
 G Floyd Stopani
 G Helen Stopani
 G Mary Ellen Tafoya
 AM Mrs. Walter C. White

Region 24

AM Betty Burch
 AM Carol Burch
 AM James G. Burch
 RM B. Howard Camp
 RM Mrs. B. Howard Camp
 AM Margaret Connally
 G Sue Copeland
 G Evelyn Davenport
 AM Marjorie W. Deaton
 G Jane C. Desmond
 AM T. A. Gilliam
 G Scott W. Grant
 G Clara Henderson
 AM J. W. Kuykendall, Jr.
 AM Mrs. J. W. Kuykendall, Jr.
 AM Joe M. Langdon
 AM Mrs. Joe M. Langdon
 AM Nan Elizabeth Miles
 E Mrs. Raymond N. Miller
 AM Walter Moores
 AM Edith Mitchell Nevels
 AM Donald R. Saxton

AM Mrs. Donald R. Saxton
 RM Sarah Scruggs
 AM Kristen Tidmore
 AM Mrs. R. P. Van Valkenburgh

OVERSEAS

Australia

M John O. Baldwin
 M Leslie J. Donnell
 M Graeme Grosvenor
 M Robert Raabe
 G John Taylor

Belgium

G Koen Engelen
 G Willy Hublau

England

G C. E. C. Bartlett
 E H. R. Jeffs
 M G. H. Preston
 M N. K. Scopes

France

M Jean Cayeux
 M Dr. Jean Segui

Germany

G Rainer Zeh

Italy

G Anne Barbetti
 G Augusto Bianco
 G Fabio Bigazzi
 G Margaret Cameron Longo
 G Maria Carla Monaco
 G Valeria Romoli Pallesi
 M Prof. Gian Luigi Sani
 G Doralisa Ravenni Santi

Japan

M Akira Horinaka

Show Winners for 1996

Exhibition Committee Report for 1996

By Lillian O Gristwood

There were 197 spring shows and 6 fall shows scheduled, which I think is an all-time high.

Twenty Regions totalling 111 societies included Artistic

Divisions in their schedules. Eighteen Regions with 39 societies included Youth Divisions. Fourteen shows had Educational Displays and 4 shows had Commercial displays.

Tall bearded irises continue to be chosen Best Specimen in the most shows. This was followed with Intermediate Bearded, then Miniature Tall Bearded, Standard Dwarf Bearded, Louisianas and Japanese.

The breakdown of each type of iris being named as Best Specimen is as follows:

Tall Bearded	93	Californicae	1
Border Bearded	4	Louisiana	8
Miniature Tall Bearded	8	Japanese	8
Intermediate Bearded	16	Siberian	5
Standard Dwarf Bearded	8	Spuria	6
Miniature Dwarf Bearded	2	Species	3
Aril/Arilbred	1		

The Nelson Award, given to the iris selected Best Specimen in the most shows, was DUSKY CHALLENGER. Runner-up was SONG OF NORWAY.

The AIS provided 123 sets of medals to Affiliates, 4 sets to Regional shows, and 13 sets were provided to shows with Youth Divisions.

Following is a breakdown of shows reported for 1996, by Region:

Region	Shows	Region	Shows	Region	Shows
1	5	9	7	17	13
2	4	10	1	18	19
3	6	11	3	19	
4	12 (2 Fall)	12	3	20	4
5	4	13	10	21	5
6	14	14	17 (1 Fall)	22	14
7	7	15	6	23	7 (1 Fall)
8	4	16	2	24	

Show Winners of 1996

American Iris Society Shows 1996

Place of Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Specimen	Exhibitor
REGION 1				
Auburn, ME	The Moors	The Hazeltons	SNOW PRINCE (Sib)	Shirley Pope
Auburn, ME	The Whites	Andrew Wheeler	DAPPLED	Paul Distie
Shelburne Falls, MA	Deborah Wheeler	David Nitka/ Becky Wong	DRAGON (JI)	Marcia Fleming
South Paris, ME	The Hazeltons	Shirley Pope	VIOLET ROSE (MTB)	
Westford, MA	Deborah Wheeler	Andrew Wheeler	SPOOK HOUSE (SDB)	Shirley Pope
			IRIS VERSICOLOR (Spec)	Stephen Smith
REGION 2				
Albany, NY	Robert Keup	Kathryn Mohr	BUMBLEBEE	Laura Salhoff
Buffalo, NY	Dorothy Fingerhood	Greg Schifferli	DEELITE (MTB)	
Clay, NY	AnnaMae Cummings	Helen Schueler	WELCH'S	Dorothy Fingerhood
East Aurora, NY	Dorothy Fingerhood	Kathy Guest	REWARD (MTB)	
			PETITE JEWEL (MDB)	Wendy Roller
			ROYAL ONE (JI)	Dorothy Fingerhood
REGION 3				
Dover, DE	Joan Wood	Robert Withey	VIVINE (TB)	Joan Wood
Dover, DE	Joan Wood	Connie Marino	CASCADE CREST (JI)	Betty Unruh
Pittsburgh, PA	George Gerhardt	Larry Grundler	DUSKY	Larry Grundler
Wilmington, DE	Esther Martin	Charles Conklin	CHALLENGER (TB)	
York, PA	Harold Griffie	Sterling Innerst	SULTAN'S PALACE (TB)	Elizabeth Unruh
York, PA	George Bush	Sterling Innerst	LADY FRIEND (TB)	Harold Griffie
			SCHEREZADE (JI)	Sterling Innerst
REGION 4				
Beltsville, MD	Carol Warner	Richard Hugel	PRAIRIE GLORY (JI)	Sara Marley
Charlotte, NC	Randell & Pat Bowen	David Hull	TECTORUM ALBA (Spec)	Barbara Alexander
Chesapeake, VA	Jan Bryant	Dennis Pearson	FICTION (TB)	Jan Bryant
Elliot City, MD	Carol Warner	Joan & Ben Roberts	LOUDOUN	J.Owings/ Doris Rebert
		J. Owings/ Doris Rebert tie	CHARMER (TB)	
Falmouth, VA	Jack & Rosalie Loving	Lois Doman-Rose	PINK BUBBLES (BB)	Lois Doman-Rose
Hendersonville, NC	Randall Bowen	David Bowen	CONJURATION (TB)	Randall Bowen
Hendersonville, NC	Walter Hoover	June Middleton	GLITTER & GAYETY (JI)	Randall & Pat Bowen
Leesburg, VA	Don & Ginny Spoon	Clarence Mahan	HER ROYAL HIGHNESS (TB)	Joan Roberts
Lightfoot, VA	John W Weaver	Betty Worrell	MABEL CODAY (Sib)	John W Weaver
Virginia Beach, VA	Becky Cook	Dennis Pearson	SNOW QUEEN (Sib)	Ginger McHale
Beltsville, MD **	Ginny Spoon	Gladys Lee	WAVES OF GRAIN (TB)	Ginny Spoon
Suffolk, VA **	Ginny Spoon	Jan Bryant	MISTY TWILIGHT (TB)	Jan Bryant
REGION 5				
Columbia, SC	Randell & Pat Bowen	Charles Weathers	VILLA SPLENDOR (TB)	Casey Justice
Spartanburg, SC	Randell & Pat Bowen	Everette Lineberger	ALADDIN'S FLAME (SDB)	Randell & Pat Bowen
Summerville, SC	Marshall Goforth	Maggie Johnson	LASTING PLEASURE (JI)	Virginia Burton
Loganville, GA	Mark & Patty Franklin	Charles Weathers	SKY HOOKS (TB)	Charles Weathers
Spartanburg, SC	Everette Lineberger	Randal & Pat Bowen	ETERNAL WALTZ (TB)	Everette Lineberger
REGION 6				
Akron, OH	Tony & Dorothy Willott	Wilford James	AUBURN VALLEY (SDB)	Tony & Dorothy Willott
Akron, OH	Tony & Dorothy Willott	Ken Demsey	IRIS BOHNSACK (BB)	Tony & Dorothy Willott
Cleveland, OH	Tony & Dorothy Willott	Wilford James	STERLING STITCH (TB)	Tony & Dorothy Willott
Columbus, OH	Don Saurers	Carolyn Sams	LULLABY OF SPRING (TB)	Carolyn Sams

Comins, MI	Kim Hughes	Nelson Yoder	LEMON REFLECTION (TB)	Nelson Yoder
Dayton, OH	Earl Hall	Sandra Rawlings	HUMILITY (IB)	Sandra Rawlings
Fort Wayne, IN	Roger & Lynda Miller	Virginia Wesche	COLUMBIA BLUE (TB)	Virginia Wesche
Grand Rapids, MI	Doris DeHaan	Bob Wilson	NARANJE (TB)	Bob Wilson
Indianapolis, IN	Phyllis Epperson	Charles Bunnell	LACY SNOWFLAKE (TB)	Charles Bunnell
Kalamazoo, MI	Mike & Pam Thomas	John Coble	CONSUMATION (MTB)	Mike & Pam Thomas
Kalamazoo, MI	Ensata Gardens	Jill Copeland	DOUBLE FIRST (JI)	Jill Copeland
Mansfield, Oh	Harry & Donna Wolford	Christine Cremeans	DAKOTA MOON (TB)	Carol Ridenour
Muncie, IN	Christine Foy	Roger & Lynda Miller	HIS (IB)	Christine Foy
Royal Oak, MI	Howard Hughes	Joan Keph	REAL JAZZY (MTB)	Joan Keph

REGION 7

Bowling Green, KY	Betty Wilkins	Irene Hughes	SONG OF NORWAY (TB)	Inez Turns
Dresden, TN	Joyce Reynolds	Bobby & Melinda	WELCH'S REWARD (MTB)	Joyce Reynolds
Florence, KY	William Grise	Zetta Laws	TEMPLE GOLD (TB)	Louis Cornelius
Lebanon, TN	Jim Bingham	Sue & Layton Gossage	SONG OF NORWAY (TB)	Sue & Layton Gossage
Lexington, KY	Hugh Thurman	Mark Cook	LIFE OF RILEY (TB)	Hugh Thurman
Louisville, KY	Hugh & Mary Thurman	August Vollmer	LADY FRIEND (TB)	August Vollmer
Memphis, TN	Lottie Lough	James Russell	WELCOME ABOARD (TB)	Mary Ann Collins

REGION 8

Blaine, MN	Mary J & Virgil Ingbreton	Sigrid Dalgaard	VANITY (TB)	Mary J & Virgil Ingbreton
Hales Corner, WI	Francis Rogers	Dorothy Vande	ROYAL ELEGANCE (TB)	Francis Rogers
Madison, WI	Karen Eirich	Dan Thruman	AZ AP (IB)	Thelma Wrobbel
Minneota, MN	Rita Dove	Pam Stassen	MARY FRANCES (TB)	Joyce Downing

REGION 9

Alton, IL	O & L Dickhaut	Nancy & Irv Pocklington	JESSE'S SONG (TB)	O & L Dickhaut
Glencoe, IL	Florence Stout	Alice Simon	ASK ALMA (IB)	Alice Kudrna
Hinsdale, IL	Joan Moritz	Florence Stout	BETSY BOO (SDB)	Joan Moritz
Hinsdale, IL	Alice Kudrna	Laurie Cross	ANNIKINS (IB)	Charles J Simon
Rockford, IL	Shirley Stien	Joseph P Stien	PUSSYTOES (MDB)	Shirley Stien
Rockford, IL	Joseph P Stien	Shirley Stien	SERENITY PRAYER (SDB)	Shirley Stien
Urbana, IL	Jerry & Melody Wilhoit	Steve Varner	MERRY MADRIGAL (TB)	Brittany Irwin

REGION 10

Lafayette, LA	Jim Leonard	Gordon Rabalais	JERI (LA)	Gordon Rabalais
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REGION 11

Boise, ID	Jan DeRousse	Chuck Stanley	WATCH IT (TB)	Chuck Stanley
Missoula, MT	Carryl Meyer	Rob & Jan Stahl	HERS (IB)	Carryl Meyer
Nampa, ID	Jan DeRousse	tic	WITCHING (TB)	Walter Arndt
	Tony & Irene DeRousse			

REGION 12

Logan, UT	Jeffrey Walters	Jared Harris	MY GIRL (TB)	Robert Reeder
Salt Lake City, UT	Brad & Kathie Kasperck	Darlene Pinegar	GARNET ELF (MDB)	Brad & Kathie Kasperck
Salt Lake City, UT	Darlene Pinegar	Jeffrey L. Walters	GYPSY ROMANCE (TB)	Florence Wheat

REGION 13

Bellevue, WA	Paul Ikeda	Sterling Okase	BLUE EYED BLOND (IB)	Sterling Okase
Clackamas, OR	Keith Keppel	Mt View Gardens	DARK WATERS (IB)	Chad Harris
Puyallup, WA	Al Lind	Marjorie Kilborn	CHANGE OF PACE (TB)	Ruby Glasser
Richland, WA	Mildred Grow	Gerald Richardson	GO AROUND (TB)	Gerald Richardson
Spokane Valley, WA	Laura Buelow	Marian Peters	MARINERS COVER (TB)	Laura Buelow
Tukwila, WA	Marge Kilborn	Paul Ikeda	DANCE BALLERINA DANCE (Sib)	Fran Hawk
Vancouver, WA	Mt View Iris Gardens	Keith Keppel	WESTAR (SDB)	Wildwood Gardens
Vancouver, WA	L R Walker	Mt View Iris Gardens	GOLDMANIA (Spu)	Wildwood Gardens
Walla Walla, WA	George Dietrich	Margaret McCrae	BUBBLE UP (TB)	George Dietrich
Yakima, WA	Mildred Grow	Marky Smith	EVENING SILK (TB)	Mildred Grow

REGION 14

Capitola, CA Chico, CA	Joe Ghio Arthur Goodwin	Lois Belardi Leo & Norma Barnard	HIGHWINDS (PCN) IMPRESSIONIST (TB)	Lois Belardi Leo & Norma Barnard
Hanford, CA Las Vegas, NV	George Sutton Lee Wald	Phillip H Posten Helen Cochran	SKY HOOKS (TB) ANGELS IN FLIGHT (TB) JOYCE TERRY (TB)	Sharon Nisenhimer Helen Cochran
Modesto, CA	Lorraine & Gordon Nicholson	Ron De le Motte		Ron & Lori De le Motte
Oakland, CA Palo Alto, CA Redding, CA Redding, CA Sacramento, CA Sacramento, CA San Jose, CA	Gigi Hall Gigi Hall Phyllis O'Hanlon Phyllis O'Hanlon Bertha Brownlee Joanne McGrew Phillippa Alvis	Ed & Mary Ralston Barbara Gordon Sandy Olsen Judy Wallach Mary Dunn R & B Circle Garden Don Savant	DARK BLIZZARD (IB) HELLO DARKNESS (TB) CHICKASAW SUE (BB) GULF SHORES (LA) SMILING GOLD (IB) RED ZINGER (IB) KATHLEEN KAY NELSON (TB)	Ed & Mary Ralston Barbara Gordon Juanita Gregory Val Lockman Bertha Brownlee Joanne McGrew Evan Dickinson
Ukiah, CA Walnut Creek, CA	Joanne McGrew Ed & Mary Ralston	Kitty Loberg Dorothy Ruckor	PETITE POSEY (TB) LITTLE BAY DENOC (MTB) HIGHLINE HALO (Spu) IMPERIAL BRONZE (Spu) PRECIOUS LITTLE PINK (IB) BUCKWHEAT (TB)	Jim Xerogeane Ed & Mary Ralston Evelyn Condo
Wecott, CA Las Vegas NV	Betty Coyle Jean Paul	Betty Thomas Berkley Hunt		JoAnn McGrew
Chico, CA **	Bob Annant	Cloudia Owen		
Clovis, CA	Michael Kreps	Richard Tasco		Cloudia Owen Richard Tasco

REGION 15

Arcadia, CA Palmdale, CA Phoenix, AZ Riverside, CA San Diego, CA Woodland Hills, CA	Judy Mogil Babbette Sandt Sally Cooperman Corrine Bromberger Dorothy Driscoll Jean Bossier	Wini Conklin Paul Riley Larry Johnson R W McCullough Pat Brendel MaryAnn Spurlock	BERENICE (LA) RUSTLER (TB) ILA CRAWFORD (Spu) EDITH WOLFORD (TB) CLOUDS ADRIFT (TB) THORNBIRD (TB)	Judy Mogil Richard Stretz Larry Johnson Corrine Bromberger Steve Rocha David & Judith Kennedy
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REGION 16

Norwich, Ontario Burlington, Ont	Chuck Chapman Chuck Chapman	Tim McMillen Dan McMillen	BOLD PRINT (IB) INDY (Sib)	Jim McMillen Dan McMillen
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REGION 17

Amarillo, TX Austin, TX	June Neel Dan & Pat Freeman	Kenneth Mazurek Steve & Valerie Keese	SUNNY DAWN (IB) REBECCA ANNE (TB)	Alene Arnold Lee & Sandy Schroeder Roger & Doris Harts
Cleburne, TX	Bobbie Johnson	Mary Huggins	STARDUST MEMORIES (TB) PROFESSOR MARTA MARIE (LA) ROCK STAR (TB) BANDED BUTTERFLY (IB) BOSS TWEED (TB) GYRO (TB) REBECCA ANNE (TB)	Marie Caillet Diane Bevel Ramona Howard
Dallas, TX	Bonnie & Hooker Nichols	Lew Begley		
Fort Worth, TX Lubbock, TX	Joe Spears Vernon & Dana Brown	Dorothy Parker Bill & Eupha Sillman		
Lubbock, TX Midsland, TX New Braunfels, TX	Vernon & Dana Brown Loni Mitchell James R Allen	Mary Wilber Joella Olson The Shcaefers		Woodrow Cagle Loni Mitchell Mr/Mrs Lee Schrueder Flo & Gil Kenney Carla & Doyle Moore
Odessa, TX Sherman, TX	Wilson & Joy Howell Tom Nuckols	Elmer Williams Ellen Sullivan	VICTORIA FALLS (TB) POINT MADE (TB)	Dana Glaser Bob Alexander
Temple, TX Waco, TX	Dana Glaser Bob Alexander	Venetia Beckhusen Hazel Haik	MICHIGAN PRIDE (TB) BOLD GOLD (TB)	

REGION 18

Augusta, KS Dodge City, KS Garden City, KS	Mary Winzer Les Houser Dixie Neuenschwander	Dorothy Dickson J C Sinclair Wanda Smith	RAPTURE IN BLUE (TB) JESSE'S SONG (TB) BEDFORD LILAC (SDB)	Lowell Markely J C Sinclair Dixie Neuenschwander
Garden City, KS High Ridge, MO Hillsboro, MO Hutchinson, KS Jefferson City, MO Joplin, MO Kansas City, MO	Duane Hays Jim Morris Robert Cranor Saundra Grimm Eric Tankesley-Clarke Bill Chapman Jim Hedgecock	Wanda Smith Riley Probst D J Huckle Carl Grimm Audrey & Dan Judy Leonard Michel Ray & Judy Keisting	TITAN'S GLORY (TB) SILVERADO (TB) RARE EDITION (IB) OPPORTUNITY (TB) COLOR BRIGHT (IB) ST HELEN'S WAKE (TB) SONG OF NORWAY (TB)	Duane Hays Jim Morris Robert Cranor Saundra Grimm Dorothy Anderson Florence Brower Jim Hedgecock

Parsons, KS St Louis, MO	John Spare Jim Morris	Elizabeth Hare Ken & Sue Kremer	SKATING PARTY (TB) CONSERVATIVELY CLAD (SDB) IMPERIAL SUN (Spu)	Elizabeth Hare Jim Morris
St Louis, MO	Lu & Orville Dickhaut	Don Delmez		Lou & Orville Dickhaut
St Louis, MO	Riley Probst	Orville & Lu Dickhaut	PANDORA'S PURPLE (TB)	Doris Loveland
St Louis, MO	Bob Cranor	Jim Morris	BATIK (BB)	Suzanne Raymond
Washington, MO	Barbara Fouts	Carol Kuhlmann	GOLD GALORE (TB)	Barbara Fouts
Wichita, KS	Dorothy Dickson	Helen Reynolds	SNOW CONE (IB)	Dorothy Dickson
Wichita, KS	Dorothy Dickson	Helen Reynolds	INDULGE (TB)	Betty Jean Bowlin
Springfield, MO	Calvin Helsley	Bev Dewitt	DAZZLING GOLD (TB)	Lisa Stevens

REGION 19

Deptford, NJ	Atlock Flower Farm	Joseph & Margaret Griner	STARDUST MEMORIES (TB)	Atlock Flower Farm
Lawrence, NJ	William & Martha Griner	Erin Griner	TITAN'S GLORY (TB)	William & Martha Griner

REGION 20

Colorado Springs, CO	Lowell Baumunk	Morris Steinheimer	ROY DAVIDSON (Spec)	Lowell Baumunk
Denver, CO	Lowell Baumunk	Randy Penn	HELLO DARKNESS (TB)	Lynda Love
Greeley, CO	Patricia & Donald Morgan	Ella Geisich tie Ellen Ferguson	SUMMIT SNOW (TB)	Joy Anderson
Rocky Ford, CO	Rose McLain	Emery Swartzendruber	SIERRA GRANDE (TB)	Rose McClain

REGION 21

Lincoln, NE	Eugene Kalkwarlf	Anne Smith	WHITE ECHO BLUE (TB)	Anne Smith
Omaha, NE	Rebecca Kadel	Sally Berei	URGENT (TB)	James Ennenga
Scottsbluff, NE	LeRoy Meininger	Leah Meininger	COTTON CARNIVAL (TB)	Julie Feil
Sioux Falls, SD	Tova Johnson	Mike Hemmer	LADY FRIEND (TB)	Tova Johnson
Sioux City, IA	Lawrence Lacey	Larry Harder	DUSKY CHALLENGER (TB)	Rosalie Sanders

REGION 22

Edmond, OK Hobart, OK	Kathy Poore Robert Medina	Perry Parrish Bebe Reimer	ABBEY ROAD (TB) EVERYTHINK PLUS (TB)	Sharon Eisele Bebe Reimer
Lawton, OK Lawton, OK	Marjorie Puckett Angela Ashby	Maude & Joe Norton Robert & Paula Medina	CHIEF HEMATITE (TB) DEPTH OF FIELD (TB)	Eula & James Cooper Angela Ashby
Lawton, OK Lawton, OK Little Rock, AR Norman, OK Oklahoma City, OK Oklahoma City, OK	Joe & Maude Norton Donna & Lacy Hagood M D Faith Perry L Parrish Paul Black Kathy Poore	Perry L Parrish Shirley Hollowell Mr/Mrs Richard Butler Ted Thompson Rex Matthews Rex Matthews	ALMADEN (TB) BORN BEAUTIFUL (TB) LA PEROUSE (LA) GINGER SWIRL (TB) JOYCE TERRY (TB) CELEBRATION SONG (TB)	Joe & Maude Norton Shirley Hollowell M D Faith Ted Thompson Kitty Dyer Randy Rener
Oklahoma City, OK Searcy, AR Tulsa, OK	Rex Matthews M D Faith Dean & Georgia Brand	Kathy Poore LaVera Burkett Trevor & Phyllis Lyons	CREOLE FLAME (LA) GINGER SWIRL (TB) LADY OF MARIETTA (MTB)	Rex Matthews M D Faith Dean & Georgia Brand
Tulsa, OK	Paul Gossett	Phyllis & Trevor Lyons	GOLDKIST (TB)	Phyllis & Trevor Lyons

REGION 23

Albuquerque, NM Albuquerque, NM	Pete McGrath Irene Shockey	Irene Shockey Susan Latimer	DESERT FURY (AB) REDWOOD SUPREME (Spu)	Irene Shockey Susan Latimer
Albuquerque, NM Hobbs, NM Las Cruces, NM Roswell, NM	Hsia-Fen Tien Jerry Toland Rosemary Anderson Leslie Jobe'	Pete McGrath Douglas Goodnight Margaret Dean Pegi Naranjo	ROYAL LOVE (LA) EDITH WOLFORD (TB) HIGH RANK (LA) DUSKY CHALLENGER (TB)	Karen Bergamo Claudette Carnes Jeffrey Anderson Gary Biggs
Roswell, NM **	Bill Harris	Pegi Naranjo	LADY EMMA (TB)	Bill Harris

(** = Fall Shows)

YOUTH DIVISION

Place of Show	Silver Medal/ Certificate	Bronze Medal/ Certificate	Best Specimen - Youth	Exhibitor - Youth
REGION 1				
Auburn, ME	_____	_____	LAVENDER BOUNTY (Sib)	Hannah Kinney
Shelburne Falls, MA	_____	_____	ABRIDGED VERSION (MTB)	Casey Ryan
South Paris, ME	Morgan Hazelton	Jerry/Marie Austin	MICHAEL PAUL (SDB)	Morgan Hazelton
REGION 3				
Wilmington, DE	_____	_____	ICE SCULPTURE (TB)	Megan McDonald
REGION 5				
Columbia, SC	Casey Justice	Stevie Smart	VILLA SPLENDOR	Casey Justice
REGION 6				
Columbus, OH	_____	_____	LIMPID POOLS (SDB)	Michelle Gossard
Indianapolis, IN	_____	_____	DUSKY CHALLENGER (TB)	Lexi Moore
Mansfield, OH	_____	_____	ORBITER (TB)	Michelle Gossard
REGION 7				
Lexington, KY	Townley Reilly	Tracy Adkins	PRINCIPLES (TB)	Townley Reilly
Louisville, KY	Krissy Legg	Amanda Mattock	CHANGE OF PACE (TB)	Sharon Gaia
Memphis, TN	_____	_____	BABBLING BROOK (TB)	Garner Goode
Dresden, TN	_____	_____		
REGION 8				
Madison, WI	Allie Gilmore	Joseph Marsden	FANTASTIC BLUE (IB)	Joseph Marsden
REGION 9				
Urbana, IL	Brittany Irwin	Kris Kirkwood	MERRY MADRIGAL (TB)	Brittany Irwin
REGION 11				
Boise, ID	_____	_____	ACOMA (TB)	Chelsae Reyna
Nampa, ID	_____	_____	ALMADEN (TB)	Chelsae Reyna
REGION 13				
Tuckwila, WA	_____	_____	TENNISON RIDGE (TB)	Mary Gallagher
REGION 14				
Modesto, CA	_____	_____	WOOP EM UP (BB)	Mrs Nyquist 1st Grade Class
Palo Alto, CA	Steve Dickinson	Evan Dickinson	PACIFIC DESTINY (TB)	Steve Dickinson
Redding, CA	_____	_____	HONEY GLAZED (IB)	Dante Rigby
San Jose, CA	Steven Dickinson	Evan Dickinson	KATHLEEN KAY NELSON (TB)	Evan Dickinson
Ukiah, CA	Alissa Loberg	Marc Loberg	FANFARON (TB)	Marc Loberg
REGION 15				
Phoenix, AZ	Ben Berhagen	John Thomas Comer	AZTEC SUN (TB)	John Thomas Comer
REGION 17				
Cleburne, TX	_____	_____	WILLIAM A SETCHELL (TB)	Megan Speights
Odessa, TX	_____	_____	AFTERNOON DELIGHT (TB)	Ryan Carnes
REGION 18				
Garden City, KS	Shilo Gillam	Waylon Gillam	IN THE BUFF (IB)	Shilo Gillam
Garden City, KS	Shilo Gillam	Wayne Gillam	SOUL MUSIC (TB)	Shilo Gillam
Parsons, KS	_____	_____	WELL ENDOWED (TB)	Leah Spare
St Louis, MO	_____	_____	I. BREVICAILIS (Spec)	Kevin Gormley
St Louis, MO	Kevin Gormley	Laura Grinstead	SING OUT (TB)	Kevin Gormley
St Louis, MO	Kevin Gormley	T J Graven	LOOP THE LOOP (TB)	Kevin Gormley
Washington, MO	Ryan King	Kanika King	PROMINENT (TB)	Ryan King
REGION 19				
Deptford, NJ	_____	_____	PEACH JAM (TB)	Sue Marchetti
REGION 20				
	_____	_____	BOY, OH BOY (TB)	Alysia Strickland
REGION 21				
Lincoln, NE	James Lucas	_____	AACHEN ELF (MTB)	James Lucas
REGION 22				
Edmond, OK	_____	_____	BRIGHT & BOLD (TB)	Shanon Stansberry
Lawton, OK	_____	_____	GOOD SHOW (TB)	Dylon Boyd

Artistic Winners

Shows of 1996

Place of Show	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes	Best Design - Youth	Artistic Sweepstakes - Youth
REGION 1				
Auburn, ME	Kathy Dewitt	Kathy Dewitt	Marie Austin	_____
Auburn, ME	Kathy Marble	Kathy Marble	_____	_____
Shelburne Falls, MA	Andrew Wheeler	Andrew Wheeler	Casey Ryan	Casey Ryan
South Paris, ME	Nancy McNeill	Linda Ridlon	Marie Austin	_____
Westrord, MA	Kathy Marble	Kathy Marble	Andrew Wheeler	_____
REGION 2				
Buffalo, NY	Rachel Martin	_____	_____	_____
Clay, NY	Mary Woolson	Mary Woolson	_____	_____
REGION 4				
Charlotte, NC	Nancy Moore	_____	_____	_____
Chesapeake, VA	Frances Thrash	_____	_____	_____
Falmouth, VA	Martha Carter	Martha Carter	_____	_____
Leesburg, VA	Clara Herbert	Iris Iorie/Clara Herbert	tie	_____
Suffolk, VA **	Jan Bryant	Jan Bryant	_____	_____
REGION 5				
Columbia, SC	Betty Y Lindler	_____	_____	_____
Summerville, SC	Betty Black	Betty Black	_____	_____
Spartanburg, SC	Mary Ann Kirby	Elta Leonard	_____	_____
Loganville, GA	Hallie Brown	_____	_____	_____
REGION 6				
Akron, OH	Dorothy Willott	_____	_____	_____
Akron, OH	Wilford James	Joy Fuhrmeyer	_____	_____
Cleveland, OH	Joy Fuhrmeyer	Antoinette Repp	_____	_____
Columbus, OH	Lila Aldrich	Lila Aldrich	_____	_____
Comins, MI	Kim Kocher	Kim Kocher	_____	_____
Fort Wayne, IN	Betty Neuhaus	_____	_____	_____
Grand Rapids, MI	Ruth Levanduski	Ruth Levanduski	_____	_____
Indianapolis, IN	Ruth Wright	Judy Vought	_____	_____
Mansfield, OH	Kay Hostetler	Johanna Bodiford	_____	_____
Muncie, IN	Betty Thomas	_____	_____	_____
REGION 7				
Bowling Green, KY	Irene Hughes	Irene Hughes	_____	_____
Lebanon, TN	Margaret Joines	Margaret Joines	_____	_____
Louisville, KY	Helen Harrigan	Diana Brummitt	Krissy Legg	_____
Memphis, TN	Mary Ann Collins	_____	_____	_____
REGION 8				
Blaine, MN	Janice Krahn	Mary Duvall	_____	_____
Madison, WI	Keith Eirich	Keith Eirich	_____	_____
Minneota, MN	Joyce Downing	_____	Todd Boerboom	Keith Eirich
REGION 9				
Alton, IL	Rita Kinsella	Lu Dickhaut	_____	_____
Glencoe, IL	Alice Simon	Alice Simon	_____	_____
Hinsdale, IL	Bill Hessel	Bill Hessel	_____	_____
Hinsdale, IL	Betty Grimm	Bill Hessel	_____	_____
Rockford, IL	Marcia Blassage	Marsha Blassage	tie	_____
		Mrs Lucie Kajiwara	_____	_____

REGION 11

Missoula, MT	Ronn Dunn	_____	_____	_____
Nampa, ID	Louisa Cone	Louisa Cone	_____	_____

REGION 12

Logan, UT	Kathie Kasperek	Kristie McGuire	_____	_____
Salt Lake City, UT	Kathie Kasperek	_____	_____	_____
Salt Lake City, UT	Kathie Kasperek	Kristie McGuire	_____	_____

REGION 13

Clackamas, OR	Nancy Miller	Nancy Miller	_____	_____
Puyallup, WA	Ruby Glasser	Ruby Glasser tie Charleen Duggan	_____	_____
Richland, WA	Norma Boswell	_____	_____	_____
Spokane Valley, WA	Lucy Littman	Lucy Littman	_____	_____
Vancouver, WA	Laurie Ystad	Laurie Ystad	_____	_____
Vancouver, WA	Nancy Miller	Laurie Ystad	_____	_____
Walla Walla, WA	Jean Dietrich	Jean Dietrich	_____	_____
Yakima, WA	Dorothy Munroe	_____	Sara Harwood	_____

REGION 14

Hanford, CA	Dorothy Dominici	Dorothy Dominici	_____	_____
Chico, CA	Doloris Bates	Doloris Bates	Kristofer Kooi	Kristofer Kooi
Las Vegas, NV	Jean Paul	_____	_____	_____
Redding, CA	Linda Harding	Linda Harding	Kari Nichols	_____
San Jose, CA	Philippa Alvis	Lorrie Freeman	_____	_____
Ukiah, CA	Anna Cadd	Anna Cadd	_____	_____
Weott, CA	Carol Dunning	_____	_____	_____
Chico, CA **	Erma Garton	Erma Garton	_____	_____
Clovis, CA	Dorothy Dominici	Debra Price tie Gertrude Graber	_____	_____

REGION 15

Arcadia, CA	Wini Conklin	Wini Conklin	_____	_____
Phoenix, AZ	Ellen Joy Smith	Ellen Joy Smith	Nicole Kingland	_____
San Diego, CA	Marian Beecroft	Elba Costello	_____	_____
Riverside, CA	Elaine Monninger	Grace Martin tie Mike Monninger	_____	_____
Woodland Hills, CA	Jim Weinstock	Jim Weinstock	_____	_____
Palmdale, CA	Jim Laughlin	_____	_____	_____

REGION 17

Amarillo, TX	Suzanne Fuller	_____	Suzanne Fuller	_____
Austin, TX	Kathy Noble	_____	_____	_____
Cleburne, TX	Ida Moore	LaRita Bruner	_____	_____
Fort Worth, TX	Ester Strawn	Josephine Harp	_____	_____
Lubbock, TX	Virginia Davis	Virginia Davis	_____	_____
Lubbock, TX	Eupha Skillman	Eupha Skillman	_____	_____
Midland, TX	Jean Mills	Loni Mitchell	_____	_____
Waco, TX	Mary Fussell	Hazel Haik	_____	_____
Lubbock, TX	_____	_____	Raechel Thomas	_____

REGION 18

Augusta, KS	Lowell Markley	Mary Winzer	_____	_____
Dodge City, KS	Marti Woods	Alice Sinclair	_____	_____
Garden City, KS	Dixie Neuenschwander	Dixie Neuenschwander	_____	_____
Garden City, KS	Mary Lou Hays	Mary Lou Hays	_____	_____
High Ridge, MO	Jean Morris	Jean Morris	_____	_____
Hillsboro, MO	Terri Ducheck	Dorothy Jackson	_____	_____
Hutchinson, KS	Sandra Grimm	Sandra Grimm	_____	_____
Jefferson City, MO	Barbara Schuette	Barbara Schuette	_____	_____
Joplin, MO	Laura Teverow	Barbara Bowman	_____	_____
Kansas City, MO	James Waddick	James Waddick	_____	_____
Springfield, MO	_____	Gladys Jones	_____	_____
St Louis, MO	Vince Italian	Jo-An Finke	Cherie Reed	Cherie Reed
St Louis, MO	Vince Italian	Ginny Hill	Amanda Reed	Amanda Graven
Parsons, KS	Lucy Pearce	Lucy Pearce	_____	_____
St Louis, MO	Vince Italian	Ginny Hill	Grant Reed	Stephanie Rust
Washington, MO	Luella Pehle	Gail Keiser	Stephanie Rust	_____
Wichita, KS	Helen Reynolds	Lowell Markley	_____	_____
Wichita, KS	Jayneen Westervelt	Jayneen Westervelt	_____	_____

REGION 19

Deptford, NJ

Ray Rogers

REGION 20

Colorado Springs, CO Jean Scheilhing

Jean Scheilhing

Amanda Strickland

Denver, CO Dale Strickland

Greeley, CO Paula Boyle

Joan James

Rocky Ford, CO Karen Tomky tie

Karen Tomky

Emery Swartzendruber

REGION 21

Lincoln, NE

Gladys Enstninger

Omaha, NE

Celeste Micek

Scottsbluff, NE

Viola Schreiner

Viola Schreiner

Sioux Falls, SD

Mike Henner

Mike Hemmer

Sioux City, IA

Dennis Wolf

Dennis Wolf

REGION 22

Edmond, OK

Bonnie Hadaway

Lota Guynes

Shannon Stansberry

Shannon Stansberry

Hobart, OK

Mrs Levy Parr

Mrs Levy Parr

Lawton, OK

Eula & James Cooper

Maria Edwards

Lawton, OK

June Tomlinson

Mary Ann Holman

Carrie Simmons

Lawton, OK

Maude Norton

Eula & James Cooper

Little Rock, AR

Evelyn Kirkwood

Susan Elliott

Norman, OK

Perry L Parrish

Laverne Sullivan

Oklahoma City, OK

Jackie Karban

Berneice Miller

Oklahoma City, OK

Dottie Weissenberger

Dottie Weissenberger

Lawton, OK

Eula & James Cooper

Velma Bluford

Trenton McVicker

Trenton McVicker

REGION 23

Albuquerque, NM

June Ballog

June Ballog

Hobbs, NM

Kerry Romine

Elaine Bartlett

Las Cruces, NM

Davina Cowan

Fern Gold

Roswell, NM

Leslie Jobe'

Leslie Jobe'

Roswell, NM **

Pegi Naranjo

Pegi Naranjo

** = Fall Shows

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Displays

EDUCATIONAL & COMMERCIAL

Place of Show	Educational	Commercial
REGION 1 Westford, MA	Andrew Wheeler	_____
REGION 4 Hendersonville, NC Leesburg, VA	Betsy Higgins Brian Lazarus	_____ _____
REGION 5 Summerville, SC	Kathy Woolsey	_____
REGION 6 Cleveland, OH	Dorothy Willott	_____
REGION 7 Lebanon, TN	Margaret Joines	_____
REGION 13 Bellevue, WA Bellevue, WA Clackamas, OR Puyallup, WA Tukwila, WA Vancouver, WA	George & Carla Lankow Snoqualmie District, WA State Fed. of Garden Clubs _____ Iris Martin Chinook Dist. Flower Designers WA State Fed. of Garden Clubs _____	_____ Schreiner's Iris Garden Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden _____ Laurie's Garden Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden
REGION 14 Chico, CA	Norma Barnard	_____
REGION 15 Phoenix, AZ Riverside, CA	_____ Grace Martin	 Kary Iris Gardens Shepard Iris Gardens _____
REGION 17 Cleburn, TX Fort Worth, TX New Brunfels, TX	Beth Griffith Joe & Donna Spears Kenneth Triesch	_____ _____ _____
REGION 18 Parsons, KS St Louis, MO	Sharon Barnes Bob Grinstead	_____ _____
REGION 20 Denver, CO	Randy Penn	Long's Gardens
REGION 21 Scottsbluff, NE	Julie Feil	_____
REGION 22 Edmond, OK Lawton, OK Lawton, OK	Bonnie Hadaway Maria Edwards Howard & Maria Edwards	_____ _____ _____

Exhibition Certificates for 1996

Tall Bearded

Allen, James R	V3D	Richlie, Wayne	R25
Arbuncle, Alvin	6-87	Roberts, Evelyn	#537
	#918	Roberts, Ed	961
Baumunk, Lowell	9041A	Roberts, Joan	573-1
	94X10-18		733-1
	94-7-1	Roberts, Merle	93-88E
	9048	Robertson, Leon	934B
Bingham, Jim	88-55-1	Rogers, Francis	C202U
Black, Paul	A33D	Rowlan, Henry C	#96-TB-2
Boyko, Cathy	SWxMT	Sauers, Don	80-69-9-N
Brown, Opal	92-3C	Schreiner's	171
Carr, Frank	CHUN FAN	Shockey, Howard	93-214-D
Clough, W H	BWR87		93-217-C
Cochran, Helen	92-01-D	Stetson, Bob	93-202-A
Cranor, Robert	9269		RS94K1
	9227		RS9317
Edelman, Reginald	RKE-1		RS-94-K2
Ensminger, Allan	193-22	Shoop, George	89-23-1
Fan, Chun	FC9149AA		89-26
Goodwin, Arthur	94-36	Smith, Wanda	88-15
Griner, William/Martha	92-77A	Spoon, Don	92-39A
Herrington, Mary	1-6CH-A		92-192A
Keppel, Keith	92-57C	Stadler, J D	R-16-6
	90-67A	Sutton, George	G-5-B-TBSA
	4A-92-1		G80TBRE
Koch, Robert	92-4-4		G-9-C
	31-89-1	Walters, Jeffrey	E1-RP-3
Lange, Anthony	1-93-4	Winzer, Bill	B-94-1A
	18-93-9	Wood/Feuerstein	W-92-49
	91-237		92-20W
Lauer, Larry	9041A	Zurbrigg, Lloyd	LL-100
Magee, Tom	9048		
	908B		
	9324A		
Mattock, Anne	#32		
McGrath, Peter	TB93-3		
McCullough, M C	#13		
Miller, David	91-4B		
Moorehead, Jerry	#93-3-3		
Mueller, Adam	83-125-8		
Mahan, Clarence	IDS15R		
Nebeker, Don	#1031		
Pinegar, Darlene	AC-93-232B		
Powell, Marge	PIP871101		
Reyna, Oz	92-26B		
Richardson, Gerald	91-79-2		

Standard Dwarf Bearded

Black, Paul	D131B
Dyer, Floyd	D-95-95-D
Eirich, Karen	K-B1-SDB
Hall, Earl	218-92-16-2SX
	(AUTUMN MAPLE)
Hargrove, Mike	15-91-1
Hemmer, Mike	MH-85-1C
Jones, Bennett	567-1
Keppel, Keith	92-11A
Kremer, Ken & Sue	96-21
Ritchie, Jayne	91-20-3
Smith, Marky	90-26B
Willott, Tony & Dorothy	W95-121
Willott, Tony & Dorothy	W80-46

Intermediate Bearded

Black, Paul	A114WW
	C108G
Bowen, Randell & Pat	RAN1
Keppel, Keith	91-52F
Kudrna, J	KX-1
Meyer, Carryl	94-13-2
Smith, Marky	93-33R
Sutton, George	C-20A-IBRE
Wesche, Virginia	94NTXEF#1
Willott, Tony & Dorothy	W93-45

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

Chapman, Chuck	92-87-2
Willott, Tony & Dorothy	W91-62
	W91-56
	W91-46
	W96-42

Japanese

Aitken, Terry	88J31
Ackerman, William	AW2-6
Bauer/Coble	J93K-4
	J941-2
Bowen, Randell & Pat	EL4
Copeland, Jill	PXE-1
Delmez, Donald	DBWVNST
	DB-SP-BT
Guest, Kathy	DB2
Innerst, Sterling	4073-1
	4249-2
	4648-1
Johnson, Maggie	MHDYZ196
Reid, Lorena	9J55-16D
Walker, L R	93-75-6
	93-81-25
Wheeler, Andrew	DB1-1
White, John	93JJ-B7-3
	93JB-B7-14
	92F-A3-2
	92-A4-1

Border Bearded

Sutton, George	C-21-D-BB
Craig, J. & B.	92BrD BiT

Miniature Tall Bearded

Hargrove, Mike	88-5-1
Miller, Lynda	4094A
Steele, Katherine	96-54
Willott, Tony & Dorothy	XI.ILLYRICA

Aril/Arilbred

Boro, Carl/Marilyn	BB(WRN4-89)3-91
	STROL493RE
McGrath, Pete	93-43P(OGB)
	A91-30(OH)
Jordan, Scott	J92-11D(OGB)
	J93-14A(OGB1/2)

Aril/Arilbred (cont'd)

Shockey, Howard	91-8-A(Aril)
	80-25-C(OH)
	173-87-C(OH)
	84-24-8B(OH)
Wight, Barbara	93-51-J(OGB)

Siberians

Bauer/Coble	S938-4
	S93G-12
	S9E-2
Dickhaut, O & L	S93E-2
	1374B
Helsley, Calvin	BP-1
Hollingworth, Bob	92J3B20
	BLUEBERRY FAIR
James, Wilford	93-50
Roberts, Joan	S103-3
Schafer/Sacks	S89-2-11
	S91-15-1
	S91-9-1
	S92-123-10
	S90-13-1
	S92-54-2
	S90-70-1
	S92-117-15
White, John	93B-B4-7
	93A-B3-1
Varner, Steve	#95012

Californicae

Belardi, Lois	DBM-95(PCN)
Lawyer, Lewis & Adele	XP267A(PCN)
	P143B(PCN)
Sage, Teresa	S96-12(PCN)
Wood, Vernon	94-2F(PCI)
	96-20(PCI)
	HIGH SPLENDOR (PCN)
	XP143B(PCN)
	93-3F(PCI)
	96-53(PCI)
	96-55(PCN)
	96-25(PCI)
Martin, Iris	ARX-1(PCI)

Species

Coates, Jerry	B-27(Versicolor)
Lind, Mrs Ted	AL-530-92(Cal-Sib)
Wheeler, Andrew	DARK 3(Setosa)

Louisianas

Faith, M D	C9644
M A D Gardens	L208-3
Norvell, Pat	LRREG1
Vaughn, Kevin	C-12-5

Spuria

Cadd, David	Spu-1F-91-3
Jenkins, Charles	AY71A

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Radisson North

**November 1-3, 1996
Colorado Springs, CO**

THE REGULAR FALL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY was called to order by President O. David Niswonger at 8:30 p.m., November 1, 1996. Present at the various sessions were President Niswonger; Immediate Past President Barr; 1st Vice President Mahan; 2nd Vice President Stahly, Secretary J. Plank; Treasurer B. Nichols; Editor Aitken; Membership Secretary Harlow; Recording Secretary Guest; Publication Sales Director Gifford; Advertising Editor Erickson; Legal Advisor R. Plank; Directors Pope, M. Wilhoit, Corlew, L. Miller, Harder, Waters, and Witt; RVP Board Representative G. Sutton (14); Directors-elect M. Lowe, Moller and Probst; RVPs B. Nutter (3), A. Lowe (4), Goforth (5); Smith (13), P. Lamb (17), Chapman (20), Bergamo (23); RVPs-elect Thurman (7), Kasperek (12), Holk (15), L. Perkins (24); Section Representative R. Figge (RIS) and guests D. Nutter (3), Honkanen (5), R. Miller and D. Stahly (6), J. Wilhoit (9), Messick and M. Sutton (14), D. Lamb and H. Nichols (17), M. Niswonger (18), Crouch, Conklein, C. and D. Gates, Foster, Stetson, W. and V. Wiekhorst (20), and Gossett (22).

In his opening remarks, President Niswonger invited and encouraged all present to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may vote.

The following corrections were made to the minutes of the spring Board meeting in Sacramento, CA:

Membership Secretary Harlow requested that a line on pg. 89, paragraph 4, be clarified to reflect that she was only to update the chapter on membership for the RVP's Handbook.

Public Relations Chairman Waters requested in the interest of clarity, that the phrase on pg. 93, paragraph 14, line 2, be changed from "for use in" to "to be shipped from", and on pg. 89, paragraph 1, line 2, the wording be changed to read "A couple living in the Northeast has agreed take responsibility for shipping, on request, the new display screen, which AIS will obtain for \$694."

There being no further additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as printed in the AIS *Bulletin* #303.

M. Lowe noted that the minutes of January, 1996 (*Bulletin* #300) omitted stating that an RVP takes office immediately upon approval at the Fall Board meeting.

Secretary J. Plank reported that the listing of the nominees to the Board was inadvertently omitted from the July *Bulletin*. The AIS Bylaws call for members to be notified of the slate of candidates before August 1. A direct mailing to all AIS members could not be accomplished fast enough to satisfy the time requirement, and would be cost-prohibitive. A direct mailing to all RVPs asking them to notify AIS members in their respective regions, could be accomplished, however, before the August 1 time line, and for far less cost. Although this was a gesture made in good faith, it was not entirely successful in satisfying the Bylaws requirement. In an effort to remain in compliance with the Bylaws, it was suggested that the authority granted to the President in the Bylaws (Article 4, Section 1, paragraph e), be used to appoint the candidates to interim directorships, and that this was a proper procedure for fulfilling the needs of the organization while remaining in harmony with the Bylaws.

Following discussion of the suggestion, President Niswonger appointed the four nominated candidates and asked approval for the appointment. On a motion by Stahly, seconded by Waters, carried, candidates Mike Lowe, Mike Moller, Shirley Pope and Riley Probst were approved as appointed.

President Niswonger reported that: 1) Upon the resignation of Betty Burch, Kathy Guest was appointed Recording Secretary and approval received for her appointment; 2) Bob Pries asked that a call go out for computer-oriented volunteers who would be interested in helping with data entry for the AIS Millennium Check List project proposed by Pries; 3) The transportation of archival material from Tulsa, Oklahoma to Silverton, Oregon has taken place successfully, through the efforts of Kitty Lack and the Lack family; 4) Dr. Currier McEwen has submitted a request that The AIS find a way to honor Bee Warburton. It is Niswonger's suggestion that a Bee Warburton Memorial Medal be created to recognize and honor international achievement. The Warburton family has offered to initiate a fund for the development of such a medal, following Board approval.

Secretary J. Plank reported briefly on her office's activities, stating that the change in 1996 to non-personalized logo stationery for AIS officers, directors, RVPs, chairmen, etc., saved considerable funds.

Membership Secretary Harlow had provided copies of her report in advance of the meeting. Her report shows an unprecedented loss of 1,038 members, of which only 40% were one year members. This loss represents a 9% drop in membership and amounts to a revenue loss of more than \$18,000. Current AIS membership stands at 7,641. This is the first time since 1989 that our membership has dropped below the 8,000 level. The Life Membership payment plan has been a successful offer, however. Although the change in the membership year has generated many complaints, Harlow recommends that we make no changes until a full year has passed.

Corlew moved, Pope seconded, to reaffirm the recommendation not to prorate dues. Motion carried.

Mahan moved, Sutton seconded, that new members of AIS be afforded the option of having their membership begin on January 1 of the year in which they apply, or on January 1 of the next year. Further, that this be effected by having appropriate check-off boxes on the "Invitation to Join," together with the statement that if no box is checked, membership will begin on January 1 of the current year. This is to be included in the next printing of the "Invitation To Join." Motion carried.

Copies of the October issue of the AIS *Bulletin* were distributed to Board members, along with Editor Aitken's report. Various aspects of producing the *Bulletin* were discussed and suggestions were offered toward economizing on scarce *Bulletin* space.

Niswonger reported that the AIS has been receiving complaints from members about growers who have accepted money in payment and have neither returned the money nor shipped plants. Complaints are submitted to the AIS because the customer believes that if a grower has an ad in the *Bulletin*, the AIS endorses the advertiser. Advertising Editor Erickson recommended adoption of a policy whereby the AIS could refuse to accept advertising from growers whom we believe have not conducted their business in an admirable manner. M. Lowe stated that a motion to this effect was made and tabled at the '96 Spring Meeting. This motion, to accept an advertising policy as drawn and recommended by Erickson and M. Lowe, was taken from the table and carried. M. Lowe pointed out that the policy statement tabled last spring has been amended. Stahly moved, Plank seconded, motion carried, that the policy statement be accepted as amended.

The meeting was adjourned until the following morning.

Niswonger called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Treasurer Nichols distributed copies of the financial statement. She reported that at present the AIS is more financially sound than it was at this time last year. She reviewed the condensed financial statement and noted that we have met and exceeded the budgeted income by over \$800. Nichols pointed out that the Life Payment Plan seems to be a tremendous success. Membership continues to be the primary source of income for the AIS. Nichols has projected a 1997 Membership income of \$125,000. A discussion followed which focused on how best to keep AIS membership enrollment from dropping. Nichols reviewed a chart reflecting income, expense and net income from 1982 to date, which shows the current year to have the best ratio of expense to income since 1988. Net income was

worst in 1995 due to expenses associated with the AIS 75th Anniversary celebration. B. Nichols reviewed month-to-month income and expense versus the budget in detail, and encouraged questions, discussion and suggestions on how to increase income and decrease expenses. She concluded by stating that she is encouraged by the "bottom line."

In a review of the reserve funds, the Life Membership Fund was discussed at length. Corlew pointed out that although the Life Membership Fund had been borrowed against, the AIS Board has stated a goal to return the money to that reserve fund as circumstances permit. Mahan stated that it is imperative that the AIS set aside income in a restricted Life Membership Fund, with interest only coming back to the General Fund.

A. Lowe noted that at a previous meeting the AIS Board had approved setting aside Life Membership funds in a separate account which may not be accessed. From the Policy Index, M. Lowe read the previous Board action which read, "Stahly moved, Mahan seconded, that the Restricted Life Membership Fund be kept as a restricted fund, with a footnote that it had been borrowed against. Motion carried."

Mahan moved, Stahly seconded, motion carried, that the amount of Life Membership funds collected in FY '96 be set aside in a separate, restricted fund, The Life Membership Fund, which can not be used for any purpose, except to accrue interest, and that all future Life Membership income go into that account. Niswonger added that we will still carry the footnote of how much is owed to the account.

Mahan moved, Stahly seconded, motion carried, that in each treasurer's report the Treasurer will recommend an appropriate amount to transfer from the operating funds to the separate, restricted, Life Membership Account, until such time as the full amount borrowed is restored.

B. Nichols asked to have the minutes reflect that the Board accepts the balance of \$74,252 as accurate. Stahly moved, Harder seconded, that the Board assert the \$74,252 accurately reflects the balance forwarded as of 9/30/95, from the Life Membership Fund, as previous audits have attested. Motion carried.

As directed by the Board, Nichols presented a draft of an AIS Mission Statement which she believes addresses the most important areas of concern.

The meeting recessed for 10 minutes.

Discussion on the Mission Statement continued following the short recess with both guests and Board members offering suggestions to be considered for inclusion in the final statement which Nichols has been asked to bring to the Spring Board meeting.

J. Plank read the report from Registrar Keppel. Keppel stated that registrations have leveled off to 866 cleared names, 200 more than the previous year, with the final figure as of December 1 to be projected around 900. Bids have been received based on the 100 page registration book for 1995. Keppel reported that four foreign irises introduced in 1996 have been certified as eligible for AIS awards. Keppel remarked that the most pressing problem facing the registrar is the issue of putting registrations on disk, and he recommends that a committee be appointed to study the question. Keppel concluded that he is grateful to Kathy Wells of Salina, Texas who has supplied him with an alphabetical list of all R & I and Check List cultivar names, a project she undertook on her own.

Corlew moved, J. Plank seconded, that 800 Registration and Introduction booklets be published and that the sales price remain at \$6 each. Motion carried.

Mahan moved, Witt seconded, that Kathy Wells be commended by the Board for alphabetizing the registrations. Motion carried.

M. Lowe stated that a new electronic committee needs to be established with a precise mission. He suggested that the people responsible for putting section information on computer be made part of that committee. Niswonger asked for names in recommendations from which he might appoint such a committee, and then request Board approval.

Publication Sales Director Gifford reported on inventory as of 9/30/96. He noted that he has had some difficulty being prompt with shipping orders, but he has resolved that problem. Noting the small inventory on Membership Lists, Barr inquired if it was time to update this publication. Harlow responded that it is time. She added that she has been asked to consider providing the membership list on disk and that she has done so, but notes that most people would appreciate a printed copy. Mahan

moved, Miller seconded, that the membership list be updated and published in an economical manner on prepunched paper for a total of 150 printed copies. Motion carried. Waters moved, Lowe seconded that the membership list be offered on disk at the same price as the printed list. Motion carried.

Paul Gossett reported that he has 1992 and 1995 *Bulletins* available for bulk sale, but that sales have fallen off since the spring meeting. He suggested that RVPs encourage the affiliates in their region to purchase these excess *Bulletins* as a public relations/membership tool.

Affiliates Chairman Pope distributed copies of her report showing affiliate gains and losses for the year. With a net gain of one, the total number of AIS affiliates is 154.

The meeting recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

Awards Chairman M. Wilhoit reported the 1996 Awards ballots were returned to Wilhoit instead of to Bennett and Evelyn Jones because of the illness of Evelyn. Wilhoit stated that counting ballots is an astronomical job and suggested a plan which would lessen the burden by dividing the 24 Regions into 4 counting areas and selecting a counter for each. Wilhoit has done this and four individuals have agreed to act as counter for their area as follows:

Area 1 (Regions 1,2,3,6,16,19)

Barbara Schmieder

Area 2 (Regions 4,5,7,8,9,10,24)

Dr. E. Roy Epperson

Area 3 (Regions 11,12,13,14,15)

Marilyn Harlow

Area 4 (Regions 17,18,20,21,22,23)

Karen Bergamo

On a motion by Witt, seconded by J. Plank, carried, the Board approved this new plan for counting AIS ballots for one year.

Wilhoit said that most of the complaints she receives about the AIS ballot are in reference to the high number of HMs allowed in the tall bearded section. Discussion on the subject TB HMs produced no clearly preferred solution or course of action to remedy the problem. The matter was referred to the Awards Committee which Niswonger will appoint a committee to develop recommendations to be brought to the spring meeting.

On the topic of Dykes Medal eligibility for the tall bearded classification, Stahly moved, Harder seconded that the Wister Medal winner and the top three Wister Medal runners-up be considered for the Dykes Medal eligibility list.

A statement from Barbara Schmieder was read by Pope in which Schmieder expressed her opinion that each year there should be three irises from each class eligible for the Dykes Medal, but at this point this may only be able to be accomplished for tall bearded irises by adding not only the year's Wister Medal winner but also the two runners-up. The two runners-up should remain on the Wister list until their years of eligibility for that medal are up. The same promotion of runners-up for other classifications' medals would occur should an iris from that classification win the Dykes Medal and reduce the number for that classification on the Dykes Medal list to less than three.

A lengthy discussion revealed serious concerns about the Stahly-Harder motion. Stahly and Harder withdrew their motion in favor of a resolution proposed by Mahan for correcting the eligibility inequities.

Mahan moved, Harder seconded the resolution that there will always be three cultivars of every class of iris on the eligibility list for the Dykes Memorial Medal on the official awards ballot, effective immediately. This will be accomplished by designating the first two runners-up for the Wister Medal in 1996 as eligible for the Dykes Medal in 1997. In subsequent years, the iris which wins the Dykes Memorial Medal will be replaced on the list by the Medal winner and first runner-up (and second runner-up, if necessary) for that class of iris. Any iris deemed eligible for the Dykes which has not won the medal for its class will retain its normal eligibility for its class medal. Furthermore, a committee will be appointed to study the award system for further adjustments. Motion carried

Stahly moved, Miller seconded, that the Mahan motion be modified only to the extent that in any category where there is a tie for the medal, that more than three from that category may be on the Dykes eligibility list. Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for 10 minutes.

Stahly moved, Probst seconded that as a matter of policy that there should be no more than three TBs on the eligibility list for the Dykes Medal at any time, and if a non-TB wins the Dykes Medal,

therefore causing four TBs to be eligible when the Wister Medal is selected, the runner-up that had the least number of votes (2nd runner-up) would drop off the Dykes Medal eligibility list. Motion carried.

Niswonger recommended the appointment of an awards committee consisting of respected people from each of five geographical regions. After discussing, considering, and offering many suggestions of representatives from the five geographic regions who would be appropriate to serve on this committee, Barr moved, Moller seconded, that the Board approve any of the people named in the discussion and let Niswonger make his choice of five representatives for appointment to this committee. Motion carried.

Upon Niswonger's announcement that the next item to be addressed would be the Term Limits proposal, Corlew asked to be excused for the duration of the discussion on the proposal.

Term Limits Committee Chairman Smith had sent copies of the Committee's proposal on Term Limits to RVPs and members of the Board in advance of the meeting. She remarked that at the Spring Board meeting, a straw vote was taken on a term limit proposal, with the result being that all recommendations were acceptable with the exception of what to do with the Second Vice President. Currently the Bylaws require only that the Second VP be a Director, and furthermore, the only duty assigned to that position is to take over the duty of the First VP, which is to take over the duty of the President. Smith recommends that the position be *ex officio*, elected from current or past Directors, thereby providing that position a spot on the Executive Committee and opening up a Board position.

Smith went over changes that were made in committee to those points that need to be reworked in order to produce an acceptable proposal.

Smith pointed out that the Bylaws revision recommendations reflect almost all of the term limits changes proposed at this meeting. She said that she will be able to make the two corrections, provide the corrections to Board members within a week, and that the completed Bylaws will be available in the spring.

Active discussion took place in which the concerns of various members of the Board were aired and the potential ramifications from shortening the term limits for Directors were considered.

Following the discussion period, Smith said she would like to complete the changes on the Term Limits proposal before considering the Bylaws changes.

Niswonger said that the question has been raised whether his verbal comments in Sacramento made it clear that term limits would be discussed at this meeting as required by the AIS Bylaws, Article 10, Section 1. Board members agreed that this was made clear. Stahly stated that, moreover, Smith's letter, sent to all Board members, gave notice that the Term Limits Proposal would be discussed, and that she had the authority to give such notice. Smith added that even if we pass the term limits proposal, changes to the Bylaws will not be reviewed by the Board until spring at the earliest, and following that they must be published for approval by the membership.

Mahan stated to verify his understanding of the situation, that changes to the Bylaws will not occur until the spring, that the proposed revision will be provided to Board members before the Spring Meeting, that we will vote on them at that meeting, and that then the revised Bylaws will be submitted to the membership for approval.

Sutton moved, Moller seconded, that the Term Limits Proposal be accepted as distributed with the the following exceptions: Section A, item #3 is struck from the proposal; Section C, Item #5 is changed to read: The Second VP must be elected from the current or past Directors. Once elected, the Second VP becomes a voting member, *ex officio*, and vacates the position of Director if applicable.

Mahan expressed concern that policy and bylaw requirements were being mingled. Stahly clarified that the Board is not voting on the Bylaws at this time. Lowe added that the Board is voting on policy, which will force Bylaws changes.

Motion carried.

Smith said that the proposed changes to the AIS Bylaws have been distributed, and that she would like all Board members to review them over the winter. She restated that the amendments dealing with the Second VP that were just discussed will become part of the revision and will be sent to Board members. Smith then resigned, recommending Robert Plank be appointed to take her position as chairman of the Bylaws Revision Committee. Niswonger appointed R. Plank with the approval of the Board.

With regard to the proposed Bylaws changes, Stahly voiced his disagreement with Article X, Section 4 of the proposed Bylaws, stating that this should be a statement of policy. He expressed concern that the ability to nominate from the floor at the time of election be retained. It is his opinion that the Bylaws proposals will need to be changed to allow for that.

Niswonger addressed the question of the proposed merger of Region 7 and Region 24. He reported receiving letters from both sides of the question from each region. Lee Parkins, incoming RVP for Region 24, presented the position against the merger or partitioning of Region 24. Niswonger read from a lengthy letter from J. Burch, former RVP for Region 24, in which Burch recommended that the area north of the Tennessee River in Alabama and the state of Mississippi be merged with Region 7, and that the area south of the Tennessee River should remain part of Region 24.

Legal counsel R. Plank noted that the AIS has been careful to distance itself from the governance of the affiliates so as not to be drawn into liability risks, but that the AIS has reserved authority to define areas.

Following discussion, Witt moved, J. Plank, seconded that Regions 7 and 24 be advised that the Board will not, at this time, divide or merge these areas, but advise them to work on their internal problems, with our assistance, to resolve their problems.

The meeting was recessed for dinner and reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

As Convention Liaison, Mahan reported on the following scheduled Fall Board meetings: 1997 Austin, TX; 1998, Bedford, MA; 1999, St. Louis, MO; 2000, Omaha, NE. On a motion by J. Plank, seconded by Pope, carried, the Board approved the 2001 Fall Meeting to be held in High Point, NC.

On a motion by J. Plank, seconded by Miller, carried, the Board approved the following Spring Conventions: 2001, York, PA; 2002, Memphis, TN; 2003 Northern Virginia.

Moller reported for Exhibitions Chairman Gristwood in her absence. An all time high of 197 spring and 6 fall shows were scheduled for 1996, however, 20 were canceled and 13 did not report. The report noted that the Nelson Award was won by DUSKY CHALLENGER, with SONG OF NORWAY in second place.

J. Plank read a letter of thanks from Gristwood whose nine year term limit as Director is completed this year, and who is stepping down from her position of many years as Exhibition Chairman.

The AIS Foundation report from Pettijohn was read by J. Plank in his absence. Pettijohn reported no significant activity by the Foundation since the Spring Meeting. Furthermore, he reported that donations are off, as are requests for grant applications, especially in the area of iris diseases.

Historian Harder reported on the efforts made toward transferring materials to the AIS Library.

Insurance Co-Chairman M. Lowe reported that the AIS has had no claims and that the amount of the AIS coverage has been increased from \$1 million/occurrence to 3 million aggregate. There will be announcements in both the January and April *Bulletins* indicating whom to contact for certificates of insurance for shows and sales. He reported that Co-Chairman Michelle Snyder is assuming full chairmanship of the Insurance Committee.

Chairman of Judges Corlew distributed copies of his report and recommended judges for the coming year. Corlew stated that the format used for scheduling Judges' Training sessions at the Sacramento Convention was well received. This format, which allows people to attend more than one training session, will be used at the 1997 Michigan convention. The programs in Michigan will focus on median irises: SDB training by B. Schmieder, IB training by T. Aitken, and MTB training by L. Miller.

J. Plank moved, Witt seconded, carried, that the Chairman of Judges' report and recommendations be accepted as presented, with corrections.

Corlew reported the nomination of Wily Hublau as overseas judge. On a motion by Corlew, seconded by M. Lowe, carried, W. Hublau was approved as an overseas judge.

Corlew noted that there are currently no written guidelines for approval of an overseas judgeship, so therefore he proposed the following:

1. A candidate for overseas judgeship must have expressed an interest and willingness to be appointed an AIS judge.

2. A letter of nomination must be submitted by an AIS judge outlining the qualifications of the proposed judge and forwarded to the Chairman of Judges and Judges' Training.

3. The letter of nomination must be endorsed by a minimum of three additional AIS judges when it is submitted to the Chairman of Judges and Judges' Training.

Corlew moved, Waters seconded, that the proposal be adopted. Motion carried.

Corlew moved, Probst seconded, that the requirement that all judges' training tests contain 20 or more questions be modified so that sessions of under two hours may have fewer questions with a minimum of 10 questions for a one hour session. Motion carried.

In closing, Corlew recommended that his official title be changed to Chairman of Judges.

President Niswonger called the Board into Executive Session to consider the reports of the Honorary Awards Committee and the recommendations for Emeritus Judge status from the Chairman of Judges.

The meeting reconvened in open session at 10:15 p.m.

On a motion by Stahly, seconded by Miller, carried, the Board approved the resolution that eligibility for the Hybridizer's Medal not be limited to North American hybridizers but may be awarded to hybridizers of any country.

Niswonger announced the following: Emeritus Judge status was awarded to Claire Barr and Lorena Reid; Distinguished Hybridizer Medals were awarded to Terry Aitken, Barry Blyth, and Carl Boswell; and Distinguished Service Medals were awarded to Claire Barr, Lillian Gristwood, and Phillip A. Williams.

Membership Contest Chairman Miller announced that the Iris Club of SE Michigan, a Region 6 affiliate, was the winner of the Membership Contest with 525 points, although the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society recruited the most new members. Miller expressed her belief that youths need incentive, and she is willing to offer irises to youths who participate in the contest.

J. Plank read the report from Library Chairman E. Jones on the activities of the Library Committee.

Mahan displayed one of 150 copper plate blocks used in the printing of *The World of Irises*. He suggested that some of these blocks, which are the property of The American Iris Society, may be offered for sale as artifacts for the benefit of the library.

Harder moved, Mahan seconded, that 10 of the 150 copperplate blocks be retained by the AIS Library, and the balance be sold to benefit the library, details to be worked out later. Motion carried.

The Library Committee has recommended that excess *Bulletins* in the Library's collection be sold. Mahan moved, Corlew seconded, carried, that decisions on the disposal of Library material not be made until such time as a complete inventory is conducted and made available on our current holdings.

In the discussion about the Library's *Bulletin* collection, it was stated that the AIS Secretary's Office is supposed to keep a complete set of AIS *Bulletins*. Secretary Plank stated that she has never had such a set. Niswonger directed J. Plank to contact former Secretary Jeane Stayer on behalf of the Board in order to locate the complete *Bulletin* set that was believed to have been kept in Stayer's office.

Niswonger announced the appointment of Mike Lowe to the Library Committee and asked for Board approval. Corlew moved, Pope seconded, that Niswonger's appointment of Lowe to the Library Committee be approved. Motion carried.

Policy Chairman Lowe distributed copies of the Policy Index distilled from the Spring Meeting minutes. Lowe reported that he is attempting to meld all the policy information into a unified policy document rather than a collection of twice a year installments.

Public Relations Chairman Waters presented a comparison of the annual costs to produce the calendar since 1987. The calendars are revenue producing. However, Waters recommends that Board members promote the sale of AIS calendars in quantities to nurseries and bookstores in order to avoid or reduce inventory overage. Waters made her annual request to AIS photographers to send her slide candidates for both the display screen and the calendar/

Mahan moved, Barr seconded that the Board commend George Waters for his many contributions to AIS. Motion carried.

Witt reported for Robins Chairman Cross. Since November 1995, 33 new AIS members have requested a place on one or more Robins. At least five new Robins have been added in the past year and there is hope of getting an International Robin flying. Growing faster than all the rest are the E-mail Robins.

RVP Counselor Stahly reported that as of this date, two regions remain without RVPs, Region 10, and Region 19, and expressed concern about these two vacancies. Stahly moved, Witt seconded, carried, that the Board approve the RVPs named in Stahly's report, as follows:

RVPs whose terms expire in 1997

Region 6	Emma Hobbs	Region 11	Oz Reyna
Region 8	Mrs. Mickey Giefer	Region 14	George Sutton
Region 9	George S. Poole	Region 18	Mike Hargrove
		Region 22	Ron Mullin

RVPs whose terms expire in 1998

Region 1	Dr. Warren C. Hazelton	Region 17	Peggy Lamb
Region 2	Kathleen Guest	Region 20	Glenna Chapman
Region 3	Bettie Nutter	Region 21	Calvin Reuter
Region 4	Anne Lowe	Region 23	Karen Bergamo

RVPs whose terms expire in 1999

Region 7	Mary Thurman	Region 15	Dr. Herbert Holk
Region 12	Brad Kasperek	Region 16	Gloria McMillen
Region 13	Lorena Reid	Region 24	Leland Parkins.

Niswonger expressed the Board's appreciation to the outgoing RVPs for their service. Publication Sales Director Gifford was given authorization to send Past-RVP pins to the retiring RVPs.

The meeting recessed at 11:30 p.m. and reconvened the following day, Sunday, November 3, 1996 at 8:00 a.m.

President Niswonger relinquished the chair to Second VP Stahly, in the absence of First VP Mahan, for the beginning of the election of officers. J. Plank nominated Niswonger for President. Harder moved that nominations cease, and the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot. Pope seconded, motion carried.

Niswonger resumed the chair. Waters nominated Mahan for First VP. Stahly moved that nominations cease and the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot. Miller seconded, motion carried.

Waters nominated Aitken for Second VP. Miller nominated Moller. There being no further nominations, Harder moved that nominations cease and that a secret ballot be conducted. Pope seconded, motion carried.

Niswonger asked Lowe whether policy allows Aitken to serve as Second VP as long as he is not receiving a salary as Editor. Lowe responded that it does. Mahan restated for verification that as long as Aitken does not accept a salary as Editor, he is eligible for nomination to Second VP. Lowe agreed. Stahly added that at the present time the second VP must be a Director. The Bylaws do not specify whether he be elected or *ex officio*. Aitken is an *ex officio* Director by virtue of his position as Editor, as long as he is non-salaried. Stahly concluded that in the spirit of the Bylaws, Aitken is qualified. Mahan states that he just wanted to make sure Aitken's nomination was valid.

The ballots were counted and Niswonger announced that Aitken was elected Second VP.

B. Nichols nominated J. Plank for Secretary. Mahan moved that nominations cease and the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot. Witt seconded, motion carried.

Miller nominated B. Nichols for Treasurer. Miller moved that nominations cease and the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot. Harder seconded, motion carried.

Plank nominated Aitken for Editor. Miller moved that nominations cease and the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot. Witt seconded, motion carried.

Niswonger appointed the following administrative officers:

Registrar	Keith Keppel	Membership Secretary	Marilyn Harlow
Recording Secretary	Kathy Guest	Publication	
Advertising Editor	Jean Erickson	Sales Director	Jerry Gifford

Corlew moved, Harder seconded that the appointments be approved. Motion carried.

Niswonger appointed the following chairmen of standing committees:

Affiliates	Shirley Pope	Policy	Mike Lowe
Awards	Melody Wilhoit	Public Relations	Olive Rice Waters
Convention Liaison	Clarence Mahan	Registrations	Keith Keppel
Exhibitions	Mike Moller	Robins	Libby Cross
Foundation Liaison	Richard Pettijohn	RVP Counselor	Hal Stahly
Historian	Larry Harder	Scientific	Dr. Chandler Fulton
Honorary Awards	Claire Barr	Scholarship	Jean Witt
Insurance	Michelle Snyder	Section Liaison	Riley Probst
Judges	Glenn Corlew	Slides	Hooker Nichols
Library	Evelyn Jones	Youth	Jean Morris
Membership Contest	Linda Miller		

Witt moved, Moller seconded that these appointments be approved. Motion carried.

Niswonger requested Board approval of the appointment of Dr. James W. Waddick as Director of the Rare Iris Study Center. Witt moved, Probst seconded that the appointment be approved. Motion carried. Stahly moved, Sutton seconded that the Rare Iris Study Center be designated as an *ad hoc* committee. Motion carried.

Treasurer B. Nichols reviewed the proposed budget for the coming year in detail, adjusting her figures with input from Board members, keeping efficiency and economy in mind. She restated that memberships are our primary source of income. Harlow cautioned that she is anticipating a slowdown in membership income since many current members paid ahead to take advantage of the old dues rates. Since membership represents the largest source of income, this is a major cause for concern.

It was decided that in the interest of efficiency and cost savings, the Membership Secretary will no longer send out dues notices for the sections.

It was decided that although an audit is not necessary every year, a policy should be put in place for a regular audit cycle, recommended to be every three years.

During the discussion of expenses, J. Plank noted that the upcoming Bylaws changes will require an expense line, and should probably be reflected in the budget's miscellaneous column. This observation precipitated a lengthy discussion about when and where the Bylaws changes would take place. Niswonger recognized Probst who requested that the discussion return to the budget.

Returning to the budget and the need to find ways to economize, the discussion that followed produced a number of suggestions offered in the interest of both increasing revenue and reducing costs.

The new rates for advertising in the *Bulletin* were discussed. The new requirement that the *Bulletin* ads be camera-ready or be subject to a set-up charge has turned away some advertisers, puzzled some and irritated others. Aitken was asked to make clear to advertisers that this charge will not be significant, or to find a way to include the set-up cost in the basic charge.

Considerable discussion was held on projected income, ways to economize and the rising costs of operation until a projected break-even budget was reached. On a motion by Mahan, seconded by Pope, the 1997 Budget was adopted as presented and modified. Motion carried.

Youth Chairman Morris' report was given by Probst. The total youth membership for this year is 224, with a net gain of 33. Regions with the largest youth membership numbers are: Region 18 (61 youth members), Region 7 (18 members), Regions 14 and 17 (17 members), Region 2 (13 members) and Region 22 (11 members). There is a Youth Chairman in 22 of the 24 Regions.

Probst moved, Plank seconded that the AIS adopt a Classroom Membership Policy, whereby students are allowed to pay the no-*Bulletin* rate when their teacher joins AIS, with all mail to be sent to the school address. Motion carried.

Probst reported that the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest Fund, formerly supported by Mrs. Robert Thrun's memorial to her parents, Jay and Marion Ackerman, will be depleted in 1997. There is need for a new source for funding that would support the contest on an ongoing basis. Corlew pledged a donation of \$100. Stahly stated that he would raise this need for funding at the RVP Meeting in the spring. A. Lowe added that if each Region would donate \$100, the Fund would be endowed.

The Board recognized the hard work and contributions of Youth Chairman Jean Morris.

J. Plank announced that Morris has provided her with copies of Morris' project plans for classroom participation. These are available from Plank upon request.

Scholarship Chairman Witt reported on the activity of the Scholarship Fund projects. The committee awards \$2,000 yearly to US citizens for graduate study in the plant sciences.

Aitken reported as Section Liaison that there is a conflict in the year 2000 between a HIPS convention and a Siberian Iris Society convention scheduled for the same date. The HIPS convention was originally scheduled and then later, the Siberian Iris Society announced their plans for the same date, although they were aware of the conflict. After discussion, the Section Liaison was directed to frame a letter to Dr. Hollingworth making it clear that this is a Board position, not an individual one, and that section conflicts are not in the best interest of the AIS.

J. Plank read a report prepared by Scientific Committee Chairman Fulton on the activities of the Scientific Committee with an associated report on the AIS disease project submitted by Dr. Currier McEwen. The disease project will continue for at least another year since funds approved by the Board for this project are still viable.

Slides Chairman Moller reported that he is converting to slides a program that he has put together on Awards and Ballots. G. Sutton will be providing slides for a slide program on Space Agers. The program most in need of new material is also the most popular program, the Popularity Poll. Anyone having a slide of any iris on the AIS Popularity Poll is asked to submit it to H. Nichols, who is the new Slides Chairman.

Corlew stated that concern has been expressed to him about the rate of progress being made toward revising the Judges' Handbook. Dr. E. Roy Epperson will be taking a more active role in the coordinating and editing of material. This additional help will expedite completion of the project. Corlew projects the project should be ready for budgeting by the next Fall Meeting.

No new business was presented.

Stahly announced that the 1997 Spring Convention will be held from June 3 thru June 7 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan. The announcement along with registration information will be found in the January *Bulletin*.

Niswonger asked for clarification regarding the Bylaws Revision work. He asked for verification of his understanding that R. Plank is to draft the proposed revision and to provide copies of this draft to members of the Board in advance of the Spring Meeting. Stahly verified that this was what he understood.

Rosalie Figge inquired about the progress being made toward publishing a new book about irises, saying that there is a great need for a book that goes into depth on the cultural requirements of different varieties of irises. Mahan, who is working on the new book with Witt, apologized for the long delay and promised progress by the spring. Mahan pointed out that the new book will not be a remake of *The World of Irises*, but a completely new book. Figge suggested that the book should be published with two editions, one for the East and one for the West.

Niswonger thanked Region 20 and the Elmhurst Iris Society for hosting the Fall Board Meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Guest and Jeanne Clay Plank

Condensed Financial Statement for the Year Ending September 30, 1996

Cash in Bank, September 30, 1995 (adjusted from audit \$641)	<u>\$125,211</u>
---	------------------

Income 10-1-95 thru 9-30-96	\$192,709
Expense 10-1-95 thru 9-30-96	(\$167,957)

Cash in Bank, September 30, 1996	<u>\$149,963</u>
----------------------------------	------------------

INCOME

Membership Dues		\$117,296
Bulletin		
Advertising	\$16,253	
Back Issues	\$389	\$16,642
Registrations		\$5,959
Sales		
AIS Publications	\$11,698	
Other Books & Mdse.	\$12,241	\$23,939
Committees		\$11,278
Sections Dues		\$1,599
Gifts		\$8,662
Earned Interest		\$5,793
Other		\$1,541
		<u>\$192,709</u>

EXPENSE

Bulletin		\$83,068
Secretary		\$3,273
Membership Secretary		\$18,085
Registrar		\$4,783
Sales Director		
AIS Publications	\$2,967	
Other Books & Mdse.	\$7,803	
General Expense	\$4,070	\$14,840
Other Officers		\$886
Committees		\$24,432
Section Dues		\$378
Accounting & Insurance		\$10,700
Other		\$7,512
		<u>\$167,957</u>

AUTHORIZED SALARY PERSONNEL

Advertising Editor	\$3,300 yr
Editor (Mullin salary through March \$400 per month; Aitken takes no salary)	
Membership Secretary	\$7,200 yr
Registrar-Recorder	\$3,600 yr



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY		2. Publication Number 0 7 4 7 - 4 1 7 2		3. Filing Date 1 October 1996	
4. Issue Frequency QUARTERLY		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4		6. Annual Subscription Price \$18.00/Year	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) 8426 VINEVALLEY DRIVE, SUN VALLEY, CA 91352-3656				Contact Person SECRETARY JENNIFER CLAY PLAIN Telephone (818) 767-5512	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 8426 VINEVALLEY DRIVE, SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 91352-3656					
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)					
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY 8426 VINEVALLEY DRIVE SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 91352-3656					
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) TERRY AITKEN 608 NW 119th STREET, VANCOUVER, WA 98685					
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) NONE					
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)					
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PS Form 3526, September 1995

(See instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below JULY, 1996	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		7,507	7,370
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not mailed) (2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include advertiser's proof copies and exchange copies)		0 6,425	0 5,888
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))		6,425	5,888
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)		45	45
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		0	0
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)		45	45
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		6,470	5,933
h. Copies not Distributed (1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled (2) Returns from News Agents		1,037 0	1,437 0
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))		7,507	7,370
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c / 15g x 100)		86%	80%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership B Publication required. Will be printed in the JANUARY, 1997 issue of this publication. C Publication not required.		Date 10/1/96
Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>[Signature]</i> Secretary		

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Instructions to Publishers

- Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
- In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
- Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
- If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publisher, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published. It must be printed in any issue in October or if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
- In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
- Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

Contributions

To The American Iris Society Foundation

April 1, 1996 – September 30, 1996

Contributions in Memory of:

Philip E. Bronson (MA)

Marie F. Bronson (MA)

Western New England Iris Society

Andy, Guy & Deborah Wheeler (MA)

Penny Bunker (CA)

Bob Brooks (CA)

San Diego-Imperial Counties

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San Diego-Imperial Counties

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Ella Deitloff (NE)

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Francis Hughes (MI)

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Tucson Area Iris Society (AZ)

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Siouxland Iris Society (IA-NE-SD)

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Blanche C. Scott (OK)

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Region 19, AIS

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Diamond State Iris Society (DE)

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Audrey & Walter Machulak (WI)

How Can You Make a Contribution or Memorial Gift?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society or the American Iris Society Foundation. Donations are tax deductible. When sending a memorial gift, please include name and address of next-of-kin, so that a card of acknowledgment may be sent. Send to:

American Iris Society *or*
 Jeanne Plank, Secretary
 8426 Vine Valley Dr
 Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656

AIS Foundation
 Roger P. Mazur
 5824 Erskine #7
 Omaha, NE 68104

Bee Warburton Medal

Plans are underway to prepare a medal to be awarded for outstanding international contributions to knowledge of the world of iris. Striking the medal is an expensive process, so a fund is being set up to defer this cost. The AIS is asking for donations from clubs and individuals to make this project a reality. Donations should be made payable to the American Iris Society, Bee Warburton Medal fund, and sent to secretary Jeanne Plank.

Index *of Advertisers*

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American Iris Society

Official Storefront

\$20.00 *The World of Irises*

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The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

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Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Joan Cooper, 212 West Country Rd. C, St. Paul, MN 55113. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check to Japanese Iris Society.

Louisiana: Order from Dalton Durio, Route 7, Box 43, Opelousas, LA 70570. Check to Society for Louisiana Irises. Rental fee is \$10.00.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check to MIS.

Rebloomers: Contact Olive Rice-Waters, 1914 Napa Ave, Berkley, CA 94707. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Thomas Abrego, P.O. Box 693, Newberg, OR 97132. Check to Society for Siberian Irises.

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We would like to thank all of
you who have so kindly expressed
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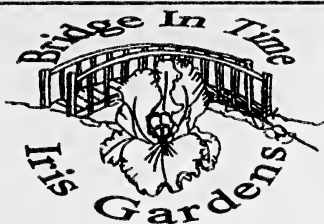
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1996

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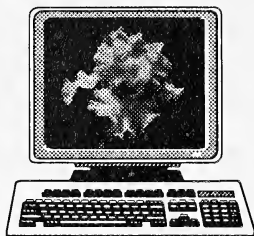
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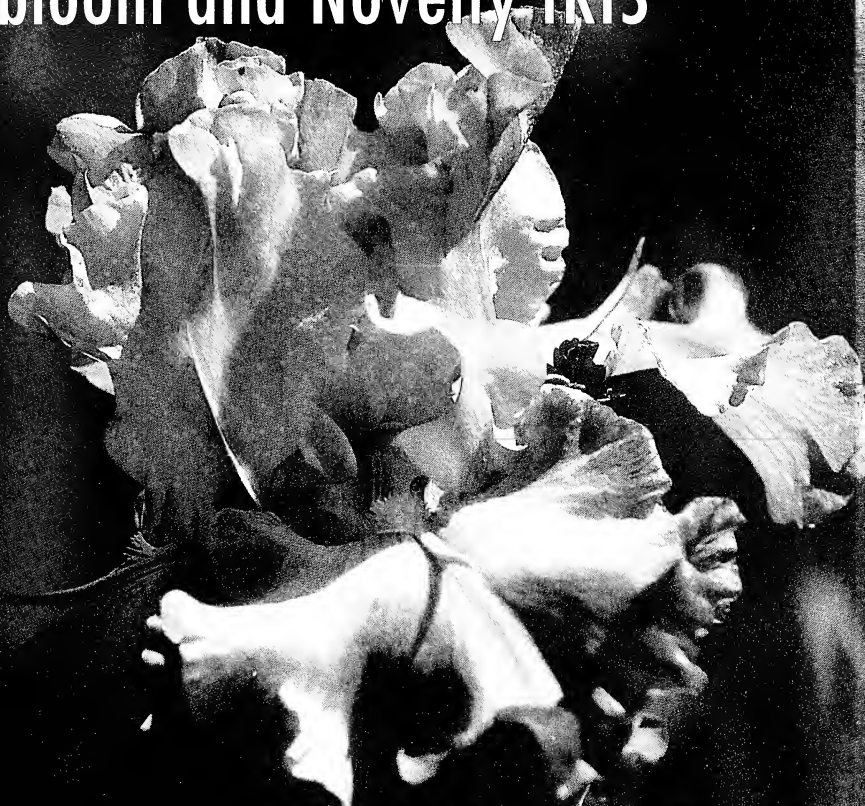
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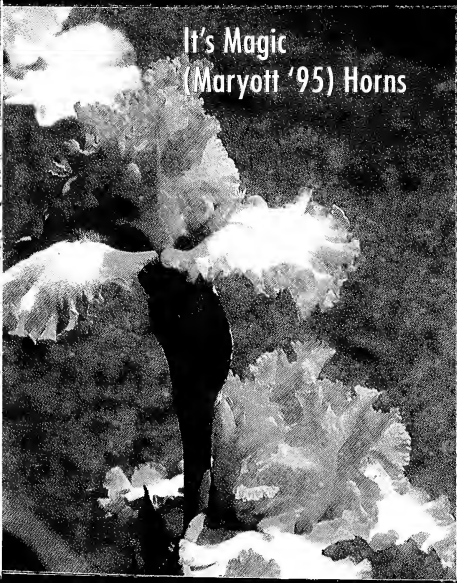
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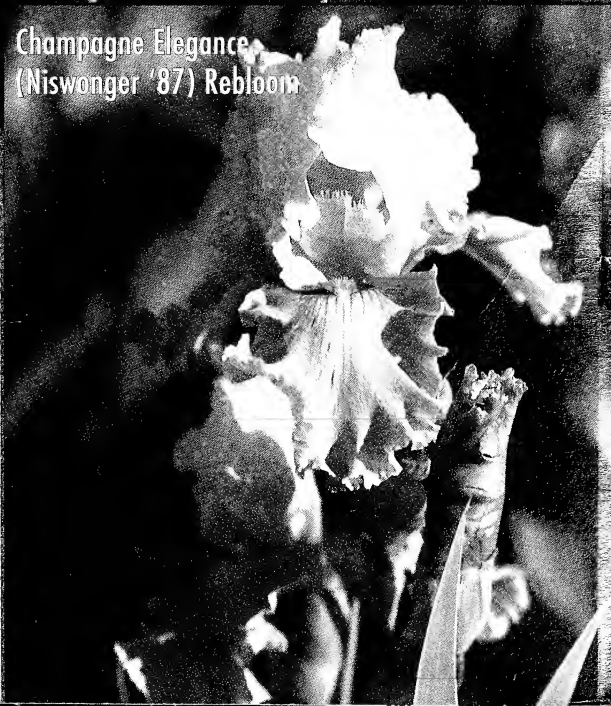


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Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXVIII, No. 2

Series No. 305

April 1997

Editor: Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St., Vancouver WA 98685-3802

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The *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* is published quarterly by The American Iris Society. Publishing Office, 8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656. Periodical postage paid at Sun Valley, CA, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price is included in annual membership dues of \$18.00. Annual Subscription rate \$18.00 per year. All copy due in Editor's office by Oct. 15 (Jan.), Jan. 15 (April), April 15 (July), July 15 (October). This *Bulletin* was printed by Parris Printing Co. Copyright © 1997 The American Iris Society.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*,
8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley CA 91352-3656.

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Historical: Larry Harder, Box 547, Ponca, NE 68770, (402) 755-2615
Honorary Awards: Claire B. Barr, 12565 Cloudesly Dr., San Diego, CA 92128, (619) 451-6333
Insurance: Michelle Snyder, 7855 Ellenbogen St., Sunland, CA 91040, (213) 525-3794
Judges: Glenn Corlew, 2229 Ptarmigan Dr #4, Walnut Cr, CA 94595, (510) 932-1998
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Membership Contest: Lynda Miller, 3167 E. US 224, Ossian, IN 46777, (219) 597-7403
Policy: Mike Lowe, 12219 Zilles Road, Blackstone, VA 23824, (804) 265-8198
Public Relations: Olive Rice-Waters, 1914 Napa Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707, (510) 526-2853
Registrations: Keith Keppel, PO Box 18154, Salem, OR 97305, (503) 391-9241
 Send all registration applications, and \$7.50 payable to AIS, to Keith Keppel.
Robins: Libby Cross, 8907 Potts Creek Road, Covington, VA 24426, (540) 747-2123
RVP Counselor: Hal Stahly, 8343 Manchester Dr, Grand Blanc, MI 48439, (810) 694-7139
Scientific: Dr. Chandler Fulton, 21 Hillcrest Road, Weston, MA 02193, (617) 891-4015
Scholarship: Jean Witt, 16516 25TH NE, Seattle, WA 98155, (206) 362-9206
Section Liaison: Riley Probst, 418 N. Van Buren, St. Louis, MO 63122, (314) 822-2485
Slides: Hooker Nichols, 3365 Northaven Rd., Dallas, TX 75229, (214) 352-2191
Youth: Jean Morris, 682 Huntley Heights, Ballwin MO, 63021, (314) 256-3927
Rare Iris Study Center: Director Dr. James W. Waddick, 8871 NW Brostrom Rd. Kansas City, MO 64152, (816) 746-1949.

AIS Sections: (1st line = Presidents, 2nd line = Memberships)***Median Iris Society:***

Jim Morris, 682 Huntley Heights Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021

Deborah Outcalt, R. 1, Box cw-20 Spencer, IN 47460

Society for Siberian Irises:

Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Road E, Williamston, MI 48895

Howard Brookins, N 75 W14257 North Point Dr., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-4325

Spuria Iris Society:

Tom Abrego, PO Box 693, Newberg, OR 97132

Bobbie Shepard, 3342 West Orangewood, Phoenix, AZ 85051

Society for Japanese Irises:

Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119 St., Vancouver, WA 98685

Robert Bauer, 9823 E. Michigan Ave, Galesburg, MI 49053

Reblooming Iris Society:

Rosalie Figge, 4 Maryland Ave, Towson, MD 21286-1100

Charlie Brown, 3114 S. FM 131, Denison, TX 75020

Dwarf Iris Society:

Richard C. Sparling, 18016 Lafayette Dr., Olney, MD 20832

Lynda Miller, 3167 E. US 224, Ossian, IN 46777

Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises:

Bob Ward, 54 Belmont Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204

Adele Lawyer, 4333 Oak Hill Road, Oakland, CA 94605

Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA):

Richard Kiyomoto, 486 Skiff St, North Haven, CT 06473

Colin Rigby, 18341 Paulson SW, Rochester, WA 98579

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS):

Doug Goodnight, 1005 Gamblin Ln., Hobbs, NM 88240

Ada Godfrey, 9 Bradford St, Foxborough, MA 01035

Cooperating Societies:***Aril Society International:***

Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

Barbara Figge, 6805 Kentucky Ct. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Society for Louisiana Irises:

Perry Dyer, Box 534, Blanchard, OK 73010

Elaine Bourque, 1812 Broussard Rd. E, Lafayette, LA 70508

Section Membership Rates:

	single annual	single triennial	family annual	family triennial
Median Iris Society	\$5.50	15.00	8.00	22.50
Society for Siberian Iris	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Spuria Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Society for Japanese Iris	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
Reblooming Iris Society	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Society for PCNs	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Species Iris Group	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Dwarf Iris Society	4.50	12.00	6.75	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00

Aril Society International	10.00	28.00	—	—
Society for Louisiana Irises	7.50	18.00	9.00	22.50

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15: Southern California and Arizona:

Dr. Herbert Holk, 14115 Pear St., Riverside, CA 92508, (909) 780-0335

16: Canada:

Gloria McMillen, RR #1, Norwich, ON, N0J-1P0 Canada, (519) 468-6508

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Peggy Lamb, 714 Pebble Creek Drive, Garland, TX 75040-3609, (214) 495-5645

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20: Colorado:

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22: Arkansas and Oklahoma:

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23: New Mexico:

Karen Bergamo, 2508 Punta de Vista, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112-2516, (505) 299-5198

24: Alabama and Mississippi:

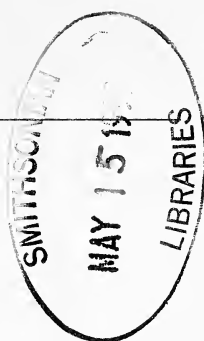
Leland Parkins, 759 Dogwood Tr., Remlap, AL 35133, (205) 681-3349

AIS Bulletin

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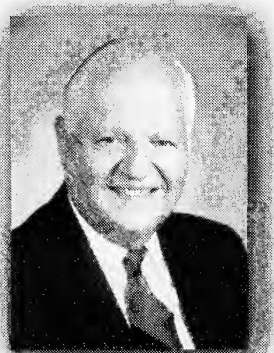
Front Cover Photo: species *I. pseudacorus* 'Ivory', as seen in the Marble Garden, Harvard, MA; part of the M.A.S.S. Medley tour, 1996. Photo by Terry Aitken

President's Message

Looking Forward to Spring

by Dave Niswonger

AT THE FALL 1996 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF Directors, some changes were made in the Awards System, specifically to add two more Tall Bearded irises to the Dykes Medal Ballot. It was my feeling when the last major changes were made in the Awards system that some fine tuning would need to be done later on. We've now had three years experience with the new system and there have been many suggestions made for adjustments. When the aforementioned changes were made, the Board felt that a committee should be appointed to further evaluate the system. Accordingly, with the Board's approval, I have appointed the following committee: E. Roy Epperson of North Carolina, Chairman, Barbara Schmieder of Massachusetts, Jim Morris of Missouri, Barbara Aitken of Washington, and Virginia Messick of California.



Dave Niswonger, AIS President


We will probably never develop an Awards System that will be satisfactory to all, but we can continue to develop a system that will best meet the goals and purposes of the American Iris Society. These goals and purposes will undoubtedly change as the years roll along, and consequently the Awards system will need some changes. Therefore, you may wish to let the committee members know your thoughts as to where encouragement may need to be given as it relates to the Awards System. I would hope that we could apply the old German saying to "Make Haste Slowly" as we take a long look at the system.

Under the Awards category, the Board established the Warburton Medal to recognize international achievement for

contributions to the knowledge, discovery and dissemination of iris seeds and plants throughout the world. Beatrice A. "Bee" Warburton was internationally known for her contributions to the world of irises. In order to do this a die will need to be made to strike the medals. People wanting to honor "Bee" Warburton can send their contribution for the "Warburton Fund" to AIS secretary Jeanne Plank, (address, page 2). In my last letter, I mentioned the untimely death of Dick Pettijohn, Secretary-Treasurer of the AIS Foundation. Roger Mazur of Omaha, Nebraska has been appointed the new Secretary-Treasurer of the Foundation. You will find his full address on page 2 of the Bulletin, so that you may continue to honor your friends and deceased members with your tributes and memorials.

Jim Waddick has received two shipments of seeds and plants from the Rare Iris Study Center (RISC) in Russia. One came from Dr. Rodionenko of St. Petersburg, and the other from Sergey Loktev of Moscow. The RISC hopes to coordinate, research, collect and distribute rare iris species so they may be maintained in cultivation—some are already lost in the wild. An effort is being made to maintain the pure species. Many species are easily incorporated with other species and the true species is lost from the genetic pool. At the same time, planned hybridization may provide something new in irises. The RISC plans to compile a list of all threatened and endangered iris species worldwide. Special attention is being given to those species once in cultivation but not known to be at the present time, and species in the wild that have never been collected. Sixteen species have recently been distributed to growers in areas where they are likely to be well grown.

We want to congratulate the British Iris Society on their 75th Anniversary this year. They will be holding a convention to celebrate the occasion on May 23rd through May 26th at Hadlow in Kent. If you would like to participate in this event, complete information can be found on pages 20–21 of your January Bulletin.

Another iris season is about to begin. Let's enjoy it to the fullest! A special treat would be to attend the National convention in Dearborn, Michigan on June 3rd through 7th. See you there! 

KEITH KEPPEL

P. O. BOX 18154

SALEM, OR 97305

1997 INTRODUCTIONS

BRAGGADOCIO (Keppel) TB, ML 30" ((Gallant Rogue x (Ever After x Impressionist)) X ((Tomorrow's Child x (Show Biz x Villain)) x Gallant Rogue)) Loud honey apricot and dahlia plum bicolor, burnt orange beards. #91-244E. **\$40.00**

CHAMPAGNE FROST (Keppel) TB, M 35" (Lucky Lemon X Overjoyed) Ruffled blue white and buff peach amoena. Best seedling, Portland 1996. EC 1996. #92-59C. **\$45.00**

CROWNED HEADS (Keppel) TB, M 38" (In Reverse X Honky Tonk Blues) Deep violet and milky light blue reverse neglecta. Sharp color demarcation. EC 1996. #90-67A. **\$45.00**

DAY GLOW (Keppel) TB, EM 36" (((sdlg. x Orange Fire) x Orangerie) X Champagne Wishes) Starchy pinkish apricot with fiery beards. #89-110A. **\$35.00**

FASHION STATEMENT (Gatty) TB, M 36" (Coming Up Roses X Designing Woman) Big ruffled rosy lilac, pinkish orange beards. Vigorous grower. #X45-13. **\$40.00**

PRINCE GEORGE (Shoop) TB, M 37" (Parisian Flight X Condottiere) Fanciful purple amoena, white standards and sunburst pattern in falls, bittersweet beards. George's type of iris! #90-7-1. **\$40.00**

DONEGAL (Keppel) IB, M 21" (((Nefertiti x Playgirl) x Presence) X Chanted) Pinkish mauve, beards lavender blue. #91-41E. **\$15.00**

FRUIT COCKTAIL (Keppel) IB, M 23" (Florida Orange X Orange Tiger) Soft yellow, peach and apricot ochre blended bitone, fire red beards. #92- 19A. **\$15.00**

GALWAY (Keppel) IB, M 24" (Donegal sib) Showy peach pink, flushed orchid in standards, beards tangerine orange to lavender blue. EC 1995. #91-41H. **\$15.00**

TANTRUM (Keppel) IB, EM 24" ((Jitterbug x Hot Streak) X Quote sib) Light yellow; 1/2" oxblood fall margin. #91-68A. **\$15.00**

HOODLUM (Keppel) SDB, EM 15" (Privileged Character X Quote sib) Port wine luminata-plic, speckled white. #91-63B. **\$12.50**

RINGER (Keppel) SDB, EM 10" (Firestorm X Quote) Dark plum brown, brilliant cadmium lemon falls ringed in brown. EC 1996. Best seedling, Vancouver 1996. #92-11A. **\$12.50**

SPRING FRESH (Keppel) SDB, M 11" (Jade Jewels X Chanted) Squeaky clean lemon yellow, blue beards. #91-25T. **\$12.50**

WEBMASTER (Keppel) SDB, M 12" (Ringer sib) Port wine standards, fall edge and veining; falls centered lemon. #92-11 D. **\$12.50**

**Please add \$4.00 for shipping/handling. July/August delivery.
Catalogue \$2.00 — deductible from order.**

Editor's Message

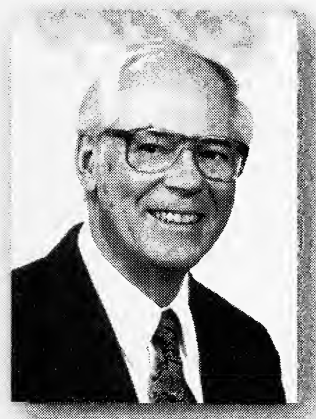
Why Join the American Iris Society

by Terry Aitken

I WAS CONFRONTED AT THE FALL BOARD MEETING BY one of our RVPs with this very basic question, "Why join AIS?" I am sure that, over the years, we have all asked this question, and we all need an affirmative answer.

For the beginner, the AIS represents a vast resource list. For almost any iris interest there is a source in our Commercial Directory. Many of our advertisers are very generous with their extras (or bonus plants) so that purchasing plants through them can pay for your AIS membership many times over.

Beginning iris growers have many questions. The RVP list and Section list represents an enormous network of gardeners who are "user friendly". The novice can immediately be put in touch with local and regional growers who have "been there, done that". There is a lifetime's worth of information within the AIS. Even for the veterans, there is a constant learning curve of new information just over the horizon. AIS will try to share it with you.



Terry Aitken, AIS Bulletin Editor


Irisarians crave positive reinforcement to charge their aesthetic batteries. We will try to provide that through the photography of our many talented camera buffs, and by

providing information on the latest breaking pioneering work of our many fine iris hybridizers world wide, and celebrate the great diversity of our iris interests.

Irisarians are great gardeners who take it as a challenge and a special joy to groom and grow spectacular plants. Over time, the AIS Bulletin becomes a resource of cultural, grooming and breeding tips to enhance their growing success.

Irisarians are hard workers who love to share their experiences. Local societies provide that opportunity. AIS participation rewards the gardeners through the awards system. The Bulletin reports keep the gardeners informed of plants that may give them superior results. National conventions provide opportunities to see what the world of iris is doing, and a chance to meet the people who are doing it.

For those who are searching for a new goal, be a volunteer. There is virtually a niche for everybody within the organizational structure of AIS, from the local club level to the National level. Contrary to the opinions of a disgruntled few, upward mobility is only limited by one's experience, willingness to learn and a willingness to serve. One simply needs to remember that we are all volunteers; we are all doing what we are doing because it is fun. All veteran irisarians I know are "can do" people. Boredom is not a part of their vocabulary. Escape the ordinary! Join The American Iris Society.

Last Minute Note: Several articles, plus the conclusion of Don Spoon's excellent report on Rebloom, will be held over to the July Bulletin. Also in July, we will feature the Distinguished Service Medal and Hybridizer's Medal recipients. 

Corrections to previous Bulletins:

January Bulletin, 1997:

Page 4: Region 10 address is Broussard Rd. East.

Page 47: ***Bellender Blue*** (Bauer/Coble)

Blue Embers (Bauer/Coble)

White Flag is a "nickname" only.

Page 82: Region 11—Tony & Irene DeRose

Page 86: Region 9, Artistic Sweepstakes. Winner was Marcia Blassage. Omit Mrs Lucie Kajiwarra

Page 94: Board Minutes, Keppel Report: ...866 names cleared, 200 less than the previous year...; ...Kathy Wells of Celina, TX.

Page 97: near bottom of page, Willy Hublau

Page 98: "Distinguished Hybridizer's Medal" should read "Hybridizer's Medal"



P.O. BOX 19
BOULDER, COLORADO 80306
(303) 442-2353

NEW COLORADO CREATIONS FOR 1997

VAIL - (Mike Moller) TB 36" M-L Named after my favorite village in Colorado. Creamy white iris with very slight yellow cast in the standards and whiter falls. Beards are light yellow. This iris has all the qualities of a good garden iris. Scored in the 70's every year in the Loomis Trial Gardens. EC and HC (seedling No. CYCWYB-1) \$30.00

CATS REIGN - (David Miller) SDB 13" EM The standards and style arms are a dark pansy violet complimenting the velvety black plum falls. The falls are also rimmed with the standards color and touched with beards of light blue. A slight vanilla fragrance wafts from the 2 or 3 buds on 13" stalks. The overall effect is of dark purple and sparked the name by my daughter. I was at a loss for a name when I pulled the family to the yard for ideas. Hallie took one look and said, "either Purple Reign or Cats Reign", then turned and headed back to "other" priorities. Guess why "Cats Reign" and I'll give you one free. Seedling 88-3A Michael Paul X Little Bishop. \$12.50

DESERTS RAGE - (David Miller) TB 33" EM When I was growing up, the spring winds would whip up some hellacious sand storms in our arid hometown. This TB reminds me of the results of those winds. The standards are a blend of sandy grey brown with a very slight violet infusion, while the falls are a blending of yellow hafts to sandy grey brown. Yellow beards create the eye of the storm amidst the 7 flowers. Seedling 88-II B (Gold Galore X Copper Classic) X Sunny and Warm. \$25.00

Please write or phone for a complete listing of 1997 and previous introductions from these Colorado hybridizers:

Tom Magee	Jack Durrance	Joe Hoage
Carl Jorgensen	David Miller	Ray Lyons
Lois Olson	Mike Moller	Ruth Goebel
Millie Wasmundt	Linda Doty	Mary Ann Heacock

LOOKING FOR A HOT DATE?

Be sure you make it a Rocky Mountain Date in '98!

Come to Colorado June 2-6, 1998.

Stop by this year on your way to Michigan for a preview. We're hosting over 900 guest iris at our garden located at 3240 Broadway in Boulder, Colorado. Best TB bloom is usually late May or early June.

Youth Views

Classroom Iris Projects

by Jean E. Morris

Classroom Iris Projects Launched

STUDENTS ARE GROWING IRISES AT THEIR SCHOOLS with the help of local iris societies. These Classroom Iris Projects provide what is necessary for a hands-on learning experience. At the same time, they add beauty to the school landscape and give the students a feeling of accomplishment. Irises are ideal subjects for these projects, as they bloom in the spring before school recesses for the summer. If dependable remountants are planted, there will also be some fall bloom to enjoy.

As mentioned in the January, 1997 *AIS Bulletin*, we want to thank Region 14 and the Leo T. Clark Foothills Area Iris Society for initiating the classroom iris-study concept. The Leo T. Clark club "adopted" the class of Mary Old-Kooi at Jay Partridge Elementary School. For the past three years, various students there have cared for the iris bed, studied the plants, enjoyed the beautiful blooms and created artwork based on the iris theme.



Jean E. Morris
Youth Committee Chairperson

An additional Region 14 Classroom Iris Project is gearing up at Denair Elementary School, led by Sandy Mann and supported by the San Joaquin Iris Society. Some 300 rhizomes were donated by Gordon and Loraine Nichols of Woodland Iris Gardens and a number of classrooms are now involved in their care.

In Region 18, the Kirkwood Iris Society "adopted" Laura Sturm's class at Southview School. In August, 1996, Kirkwood members built a 40 foot by 8 foot raised bed outlined with

landscape timbers. Rhizomes were donated by area AIS members and the students began planting the first day of school. Each iris variety was carefully labeled and students have a section of the bed assigned to their care. Many types of irises were planted—bearded and beardless, dwarf and tall, rhizomatous and bulbous, species and hybrids. The teacher joined AIS and the students also joined at the Youth—No Bulletin rate of \$4 each. All mail goes to the school address.

The Youth Member Handbook, in loose-leaf format, was provided to each student by the AIS Youth Committee, and is used as a learning reference. Schreiner's Gardens graciously donated some color catalogs and loaned a slide set depicting the Schreiner's commercial operation. Other slides, loaned by Kirkwood members have acquainted the students with the many iris types. *The World of Irises* was donated to the school library.

An AIS-approved iris show is on tap for the spring and students plan to write essays for the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest. It is hoped that an iris pen pals exchange will be set up with schools in Region 14 doing Classroom Iris Projects.

More Classroom Iris Projects Needed

If your AIS affiliate would like to spread the love of irises to the younger generation, here are suggestions on how to proceed.

1. Contact the AIS Youth Committee, Jean E. Morris, 682 Huntley Hgts. Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021. We will send guidelines.
2. Discuss these guidelines at your club meeting and decide on a possible school.
3. Approach the school Principal, along with a teacher if you are acquainted with one. A teacher with some gardening know how is ideal.
4. Walk the school grounds with the Principal and/or teacher, choosing a sunny, well-drained garden spot, away from the playground and sports fields.
5. During the summer months, build an iris bed. Involve all club members in the project in some way. Those unable to wield a shovel can provide financial assistance, lend tools, or carry in water and a light lunch for the workers.

6. As school opens, provide the school with healthy, properly labeled rhizomes along with garden markers and planting instructions, so students may plant the garden as soon as possible.
7. In early October, the teacher should join AIS, along with the students who may join as No-Bulletin youth members. The Youth Committee will then provide Youth Member Handbooks, a list of suggested iris activities which fit easily into lesson plans, a subscription to the youth newsletter, *The Iris Fan*, Essay Contest topics, pen pals exchanges and the opportunity to participate in all other aspects of the AIS youth program.
8. From time to time during the school year, be available to show slides, answer questions, teach flower arranging, or whatever is needed to enhance the project.
9. Your affiliate will *not* be responsible for pulling weeds or caring for the irises after they are planted.

Once the Classroom Iris Projects are in place, they can remain a part of the classroom focus for years to come. One teacher may lead the project for several years, or the project may be passed to a new teacher each year. The sale of excess rhizomes to school employees and community members will help pay future AIS dues, buy garden supplies and finance future project endeavors.

Thanks to all who have already put forth the effort to launch Classroom Iris Projects. The Youth Committee challenges every AIS affiliate to sponsor a school so the students may grow and study irises. We see this as a way of building AIS membership from the ground up. 🌱

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Future Conventions

Official Schedule

Year	City	Headquarters	Dates	Chairman
1997	Detroit, MI	Hyatt Regency Dearborn, MI 1-800-233-1234	3-7 June	Howard Hughes 210 Parkway Lapeer, MI 48446
1998	Denver, CO	Merriott- Denver Tech Center	2-6 June	David Miller 144235 W. 48th Golden, CO 80403 (302) 277-0358
1999	Oklahoma City		4-8 May	Ron Mullin Route 3, Box 84 Pawnee, OK 74058 (918) 762-2430
2000	Dallas, TX		15-20 Apr	Bonnie Nichols 3365 Northaven Rd Dallas, TX 75229 (214) 352-2191
2001	York, PA			Jason Leader RD 2, Box 223 A Glen Rock, PA 17387 (717) 428-2068
2002	Memphis, TN			Jim Browne 5255 Flowering Peach Dr Memphis, TN 38115 (901) 278-1591
2003	Virginia		Temporary:	Anne Lowe 12219 Zilles Road Blackstone, VA 23824 (804) 265-8198)
2005	St. Louis, MO	(To be approved)		Riley Probst 418 North Van Buren St. Louis, MO 63122 (314) 822-2485
2007	Oklahoma City			F.W. McVicker R.R. 3, Box 10 Kingfisher, OK 73750

Joe Pye Weed's Garden

Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks

337 Acton Street
Carlisle, MA 01741

1997 INTRODUCTIONS:

BLACKBERRY JUBILEE - SIBERIAN. Schafer/Sacks (Seedling No. S90-38-2), 36", M-L. This is an iris for people who like large happy flowers. The color is dappled and marbled in many shades of red-violet, reminiscent of crushed blackberries. The stylearms are a lovely contrasting shade of sky blue, interestingly blushed and edged in red-violet. All parts of the flower are large, wide, and ruffled and are carried on straight, tall, strong stalks, well above the foliage, with four buds per stalk. HC 1996. Trim The Velvet X S87-10-1: (Mad Magenta x Percheron).....\$30.00

COUNTESS CATHLEEN - SIBERIAN. Schafer/Sacks (Seedling No. S91-9-1), 30", M. Like a sweet young girl dressed for dancing, Countess Cathleen is a contrast in peace and vitality - a pale iris that shines. The lightest of blue-violet falls blend imperceptibly into clean white signals which are punctuated by blue-violet veining and just a glimmering of yellow. The shoulders are darker blue-violet, giving the falls added shape and depth. The pale standards and styles are both adorned with small frilly ruffles. Beautifully proportioned medium sized flowers on good straight stalks are carried just above the foliage. Four to five buds. HC 1996. S89-9-2: (Isabelle x Silver Illusion) X S88-6-2: (Isabelle x Sailor's Fancy).....\$30.00

RIVERDANCE - SIBERIAN. Schafer/Sacks (Seedling No. S90-13-1), 40-45", M. Stunning rich blue flowers are energized by large rolling ruffles, a lively sprinkling of white on the fall shoulders, and white wire edges on the falls and stylearms. And, as a clump its form is every bit as dynamic as the dance it is named for. Plentiful stalks, with four to five buds each, create a unique display with taller stalks in the center of the clump than those on the sides. Winner of the Best Seedling Award at the 1996 Siberian Convention. HC, 1996. (Forrest McCord X Jaybird).....\$30.00

POWDER BLUE GIANT - SPEC-cristata. Samuel Norris, 6", M.

This selection of *I. cristata* was collected by Sam Norris 37 years ago from a 200 yard-long patch on a steep bank along a highway just west of Litchfield, KY. As its name suggests it is quite large (for a cristata anyway) - 3 1/2 inches across and a pale blue-violet self. It is deeply crested with white tops and deep yellow underneath. The signals are typical clean white with navy blue borders. Once planted - stand back! This iris is a grower. It will be shipped in 2 1/2" pots rather than bare root.....\$15.00

Prices include postage - UPS 2nd Day Air or Priority Mail add \$4.00

Foreign orders require postage and phyto fee

**This year we will continue to offer new siberians and species
from Tomas Tamberg**

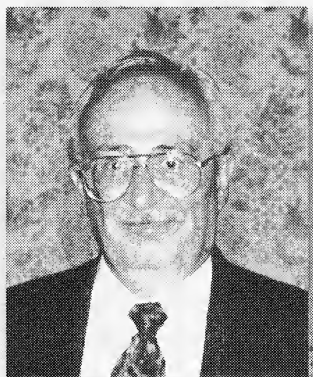
Send for complete list and descriptions

International News

by Clarence Mahan

British Iris Society Awards in 1996

THE FOSTER MEMORIAL PLAQUE IS GIVEN BY THE British Iris Society (BIS) to individuals of whatever nationality in recognition of outstanding contributions to advancements of the genus *Iris*. In 1996, the award was made to Milan Blazek of the Czech Republic. Mr. Blazek, head of the Botanic Garden of the Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences, has built and maintained an extraordinary collection of all types of irises.



Clarence Mahan

Indeed, the Botanic Garden at Pruhonice, outside of Prague, is recognized as one of the finest collections in the world. The collection includes more than 1,200 varieties and forms of 74 species. This includes more than 50 separate forms of *I. germanica*. In addition, the Botanic Garden has 1,600 garden cultivars.

In 1974, Mr. Blazek organized and hosted the International Iris Symposium in Prague. He is currently organizing another international iris symposium to be held in Prague which will have the theme of conservation and preservation of irises. It will include the initiation of a worldwide program covering organizations and people from every country where iris species occur.

The BIS's Pilkington Award for 1996 was bestowed on the wonderfully talented editor of the *Year Book*, Berney Baughen. This award is for outstanding service, and Berney's many American and Canadian friends will most certainly take pleasure in his receiving this honor.

The BIS made no award of the Dykes Medal Trophy in 1996. The Fothergill Trophy established for tall bearded irises was won by LARK RISE, bred by C.E.C. Bartlett. LARK RISE, derived from the cross CHERISHED MEMORY X CHICO MAID is a neglecta with greyed blue lavender standards and deep blue lavender falls. It has four branches, plus terminal, and up to 11 buds.

The Miller Trophy, awarded to the best beardless iris other than Pacific Coast Natives, was given in 1996 to OBAN, hybridized by Harry Foster. This tetraploid Siberian was obtained from SILVER EDGE X REDDY MADE. The new Marjorie Brummitt Trophy for Pacific Coast Natives was awarded to Peter Maynard's GORING ACE. This lovely iris was pictured on the cover of the 1993 Year Book.

Iris Society of Australia Awards in 1995

The Australasian Dykes Medal, which is awarded in alternate years in Australia and New Zealand, went to the Australian tall bearded iris TEMPTONE, hybridized by Graeme Grosvenor, in 1995. A beautifully ruffled purple iris, TEMPTONE came from the cross of two American Dykes Medal winners: SILVERADO X DUSKY CHALLENGER.

MARGARET LEE, the gorgeous Louisiana iris bred by John Taylor, was selected for the Iris Society of Australia Award in 1995. This iris is well known to North American growers of Louisiana irises, and has achieved considerable popularity since its introduction.

Bosnia

The recent war in Bosnia has been a great tragedy for its people. It has also been devastating to the countryside and to horticultural and botanical activities in that country. Quite a few bearded iris species are indigenous to Bosnia; indeed, some are found in no other country. The great William R. Dykes himself collected iris species and natural hybrids in Bosnia, and his reports on these collecting activities are included in the excellent collection of Dykes's writings edited by George Dillistone, *Dykes on Irises*.

A recent issue of *The Garden*, published by the Royal Horticultural Society, reported on the efforts of Dr. Max Walters and his son, Dr. S. M. Walters, to help reconstruct the war-damaged Botanic Garden in Sarajevo. Dr. Max Walters, of Cambridge University Botanic Garden, first launched an appeal to fund publication of a book on Bosnian flora, the proceeds of which would be used to pay for work on the Botanic Garden in Sarajevo. British gardeners and botanists have contributed several thousand pounds to this effort.

Dr. S. M. Walters is now planning the book, *Endemic Flora of Bosnia*, which will be illustrated by color photographs by Dr. Silic. Until his retirement, Dr. Silic was responsible for the unique endemic plant collection in the Bosnian Botanic Garden. For more information and copies of the appeal leaflet, contact Dr. S. M. Walters, 1 Symonds Lane, Granchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NU, United Kingdom.

Where to See Historic Irises in Switzerland

Those who are interested in viewing historic irises in Europe might consider a trip to Bale in Switzerland. The "Le GRUN" collection of historic irises at *le jardin d'exposition florale* in Bale was donated by the late Gräfin Helen Von Zeppelin.

Irises for New Zealand

Karen Glasgow was a formidable presence in the world of irises for close to half a century. One of the founders of the New Zealand Iris Society, she served as its president from 1960 to 1963. She also served as its editor for twenty-two years. She was fond of all types of irises, but species irises were her special interest. She wrote many articles on irises and edited, with B. E. Turnbull, the book *Jean Stevens on Irises* (NZIS, 1970). Regrettably, Karen Glasgow died in 1994, before her new book, *Irises for New Zealand*, was published.

Godwit Publishing Ltd. published *Irises for New Zealand* in 1996. It is a small volume, 104 pages, that has many lovely color photographs by Yvonne Cave. Many of the irises featured in the photographs are

seldom pictured elsewhere. Some of the photographs are really stunning, such as a field of *Iris orientalis*, a waterside planting of *Iris setosa*, and a pot of "Sidpers", a hybrid Juno.

Karen Glasgow was a good writer, and this book is a pleasure to read. Her major thesis is that irises are good garden plants and that the criticism that they bloom for only a short time is not valid. Even if one grows only tall bearded irises, the bloom season can cover many weeks if one includes those that bloom very early and those that bloom very late. But why would one want to limit oneself to only tall bearded irises? The author extols the virtues of beardless irises, bulbous irises, and various iris species. She explains how each type of iris can be effectively incorporated into the garden landscape.

This book is filled with information on species irises, and the unique characteristics and growing requirements of each species. There is much practical advice. The author also is candid about limitations of various irises. This book can be obtained in paperback for \$19.95, plus \$5.50 postage, from Timber Press in Portland, Oregon. You can order by phone: 1-800-327-5680.

An Iris Breeder in Uzbekistan

The iris world was, to say the least, quite surprised when the winner of the top prize at the International Competition in Florence, Italy was announced in 1995. The winner was ARIEL, a tall bearded iris hybridized by Alfred Volfovitch-Moler of Uzbekistan. Probably the most commonly uttered comment by AIS members was "Uzbekistan?" Who would have imagined?

The affair of Alfred Volfovitch-Moler and the Gold Florin is surely a modern day iris hybridizing Cinderella story. For a previously "unknown" iris breeder to begin his competitive career by winning the first prize in an international competition is quite unheard of. In the annals of iris breeding, this is a tale to rival Clara Rees and SNOW FLURRY.

This past year, *Iris et Bulbeuses*, the journal of the Société Française des Iris et Plantes Bulbeuses, featured a letter from Mr. Volfovitch-Moler in which he described his iris breeding efforts and provided some information about himself.

Now retired, Mr. Volfovitch-Moler is a geologist who gardens as a hobby. He has grown and bred gladiolus for 25 years, and started working with irises about 14 years ago. There are pictures of two of his irises, TASHKENT (introduced 1992, registered 1995) and seedling 93-56, a beautifully flounced iris, in the autumn issue of *Iris et Bulbeuses*. Mr. Volfovitch-Moler expresses the view that his past iris creations have not been sufficiently distinctive to his eyes—but he says he has positive expectations for the future.

Limited by the space available for his gardening and by the number of cultivars he has as breeding stock, he hopes to obtain additional material soon. He is very interested in aril and arilbred irises, and most especially in regalia irises. Perhaps some AIS members would like to send Mr. Volfovitch-Moler some breeding stock. If so, it is suggested you write him and find out if an import number or other paper work besides a phytosanitary certificate is required. His address is Pos. Geofizika, kv. 1, Kirbraiski R-N, Tashkentskaya Obl., 702164, Uzbekistan.

The Group for Beardless Irises

The Siberian, Spuria and Japanese Iris Group of the British Iris Society has now been reorganized as the Group for Beardless Irises. There was a period, following Joan Trevithick's death, when there was some question as to whether this organization would survive. Well, that is all history now. The Group for Beardless Irises is now a very healthy association with increased membership and much improved finances. The goal of this group is to foster communication between members in Great Britain and overseas by the exchange of ideas, seeds and plants, to help newcomers with their interests and problems, and to report on new work in hybridization. The Group's newsletter, edited by Sue Pierce, provides a wealth of information on many aspects of beardless irises.

For North Americans who would like to have membership in this Group, the annual dues are 3 pounds. The Group will accept multiple year subscriptions, and funds sent in excess of a year's dues are credited as an advance payment against future subscriptions as they fall due. Dues should be sent to the Treasurer

and Membership Secretary, Philip Allery, 199 Walsall Rd, ALDRIDGE, Nr. Walsall, West Mids, WS9 OBE, United Kingdom.

Iris Research in Egypt

Newsletter No. 39 of the Group for Beardless Irises of the British Iris Society had a very interesting article by Prof. Dr. Nasr El-Emary, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Assiut University, Assiut 71526, A. R. Egypt. Prof. Dr. El-Emary relates that he has obtained many iris seeds and plants of different iris species from the UK and Canada, and now has a collection of 34 iris species.

Prof. Dr. El-Emary explains his research objectives in the article. "As a pharmacist and phytochemist, I am concerned mainly with isolating biologically active compounds from natural sources, especially medicinal plants. Nowadays, the hazards of using synthetic drugs are well documented and observable everywhere in the drastic carcinogenic reactions of many drugs. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a campaign in 1977, to return to natural medicines called the 'Green Wave' or 'Back to Nature,' stating that we should go back to using natural sources in order to obtain safer drugs for the treatment of virulent diseases like cancer, AIDS, etc... There are published claims for possible anti-cancer or anti-AIDS compounds from different plants including some iris species. So, I am interested in studying the chemistry of many species, although up to now our results have not been satisfactory. The fact of the presence of anti-cancer compounds from iris species will add to the importance of these beautiful ornamental plants."

Prof. Dr. El-Emary is in need of a number of iris species missing from his collection, including a number of forms of iris species native to North America, e.g. *I. setosa*, *versicolor*, *nelsonii*, and *virginica*. If anyone is willing to help in this research by providing rhizomes of some of the irises Prof. Dr. El-Emary needs, it is suggested you write him to obtain more information. 🌸

1997 INTRODUCTIONS

CONCISE, TB, 56", M-L, sdlg. #4060-8, (Silverado X Foreign Statesman) Reddish-violet-purple self. White beards. Excellent branching with seven to nine buds. Fertile both ways with great form. **\$35.00**

BACK STREET AFFAIR, TB, 54", M-L, sdlg. #5975-6, (Springhouse X Mixed Double) S. mid yellow, F coffee with milk brown-narrow yellow border. Beards brilliant gold. Nine buds. Fertile both ways. **\$35.00**

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, TB, 56", M-L, sdlg. #4054-5, Jitterbug X 5548-2: ((Capricious x Colortart) x Queen in Calico) Standards, hot pink. Falls, hot pink with purple lines around beards and edge of falls. **\$35.00**

DEVILMENT, TB, 54", E, sdlg. #5642-7 (Was numbered 5642-6, in error, in Sacramento.) (Round Table X Progressive Attitude) S. mid yellow. F. mid yellow narrowly trimmed dark brown. 7-9 buds. HC 96. Vigorous! **\$35.00**

HELEN LEADER, TB, 56", M-L, sdlg. #5955-5, (Deserving Treasure X Goodbye Heart) S. dark pink. Falls, dark pinks overlaid lavender giving pink bitone effect in garden. Named in memory of a devoted member of Susquehanna Iris Society, who took over her husband's commercial garden after his death and did a great job of growing and selling irises. 7-9 buds with excellent branching. **\$35.00**

5 TB's \$145, no extras

STERLING and BARBARA INNERST
2700-A Oakland Road
Dover, PA 17315
717-764-0281

Irises and the Internet

Find Iris Info via Computer

by *Scott Aitken*

WHEN THE WEATHER TURNS SOUR, OR IN THE cold of winter, what is a hard-core Iris addict to do? If you own a computer and a modem, you need not sulk indoors until the sun comes back out. You can now get your Iris fix on the internet!

With the explosion in popularity of the internet over the last couple of years, it was inevitable that Iris lovers who own computers would carve out a space on the 'net for themselves. This article will not attempt to give instructions on how to log onto the internet. If you are already using the internet, however, or plan to in the near future, there are currently four ways for you to find Irises on the internet: the official *AIS Web Site*, and a wide variety of other iris related web sites; the *IRIS-L* email list; live chat sessions; and the *e-rolodex*.

AIS Web Site

The part of the internet currently receiving the most media hype is the World Wide Web. Not to be left in the technical dark ages, the AIS Board last year authorized the creation of an official AIS Web Site. Its purpose is not simply frivolous. It is designed to provide helpful information about Irises and the AIS, and to encourage people to become members. The web address (or URL) is: <<http://www.isomedia.com/homes/AIS>>. It is optimized for the Netscape Navigator web browser software, but you should be able to view it using any other browser software as well (including AOL).

The AIS Web Site provides information about the AIS, the Sections and Cooperating Societies; how to become a member; basic information on growing irises; a selection of photos of recent award winning irises; a list of all the local Iris Societies in the AIS; excerpts from the AIS Bulletin; and information on upcoming conventions.

The official AIS Web Site is not the only place you will find Irises on the Web. On the AIS site, there is an index of a wide variety of other Iris related web pages. There are well known Iris experts, and enthusiastic dabblers with web pages. There is an ever growing list of commercial iris growers with web pages—you can even order irises on the internet via electronic catalog. There are separate web pages for a few AIS Sections, Cooperating Societies and Local Iris Societies.

IRIS-L Electronic Mail List

The IRIS-L email list has been mentioned before in the *Bulletin*. For those new to the internet, an email list is sort of like an electronic group discussion via email, with other irisarians all over the world (though mostly in the U.S.). Quite like a round robin, only much faster. Once you join the list, you can send email messages to the list server, and the server automatically distributes it to everyone else on the list. You, in turn, receive email that everyone else on the list sends. There are now about 280 participants from 13 countries. The list includes award-winning hybridizers, AIS directors, many rank-and-file members, and many nonmembers. In a little over a year, there has been over 12,000 postings!

To join the IRIS-L email list, send an email message to <LISTSERV@Rt66.com>. In the body of your message, type: SUBSCRIBE IRIS-L *your name* (fill in your own name). Simple instructions are emailed back to you, and you are all set. More information about the IRIS-L email list is available on the AIS Web Site (and several others).

E-Rolodex

Invaluable for any AIS member who uses email. It is like a phone book for the AIS, only it publishes email addresses instead of phone numbers (the list is voluntary).

This is maintained by Mike Lowe. To be included, email Mike at <mikelowe@tricity.net> with your name, AIS Region, and email address.

#iris-l on IRC

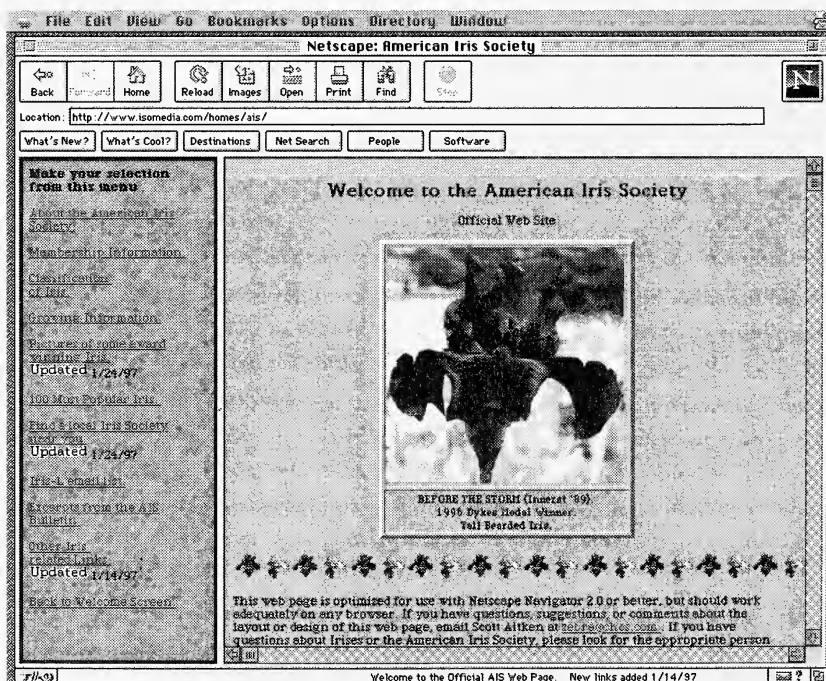
If email is too slow for you, how about instant communication? Literally. IRC—or Internet Relay Chat—allows internet users

to communicate live with other internet users. Not with just one person, but simultaneously with several, like a conference call. Five, fifty, even one hundred or more people can be on an IRC channel at once (and there are no long distance charges).

Anyone who has internet access can start an IRC channel about any topic at any time. So, naturally, a small group of Iris people have started organizing an IRC chat session on Friday evenings. The times and instructions to log on vary from week to week, so if you want to participate, check the IRIS-L email list for weekly updates. Or email John I. Jones at <jijones@ix.netcom.com>.

At this time, IRC is not available to AOL users.

So if the weather or wild animals are keeping you cooped up indoors, smile and turn on your computer. Information about irises and friendly conversation with other iris lovers is only a mouse-click away. ☺



AIS Web Site Welcome Page. URL: <http://www.isomedia.com/homes/AIS>

HAROLD L. STAHLY

8343 Manchester Dr. Grand Blanc, MI 48439

1997 Iris Introductions from Evelyn Robarts and Hal Stahly

ANDIAMO (Stahly '97) TB, EM, 36-3S". Light to medium peach standards, falls same with light red wash extending from the orange-tangerine beards to near the edge of the falls. Nice ruffled, semiflared form. ANDIAMO means "Let's go!", and that's what this vigorous, cold hardy iris seems to say. Has been floriferous and rot resistant after our Zone 5 winters without mulch. Half amoena-plicata, it breeds interesting seedlings. Sdlg. 92-7: Capricious X Halo in Orange. \$35.00

BEARDED WONDER (Robarts '97) TB, M, 32". Standards, style arms, and falls are basically light grayed yellow. Beards are bright coral in the throat, violet in midsection, then yellow ending in large multi-colored flounces that are almost upright—a real "spacey" space-ager! Falls are quite horizontal and the flower has good width and ruffling. Slight sweet fragrance. Sdlg. 531: Trendy X Skyhooks. EC '92. \$35.00

DILLY GREEN (Robarts '97) TB, M-L, 34". Standards are pale blue-gray with a hint of cream and a greenish cast, style arms slightly darker and touched gold. Falls are blended blue-green and pale gold with green-gold shoulders and throat; has a very distinct greenish effect overall. Beards are gold with blue-green base. The flower is ruffled, with pleasing width and semiflared form. Slight sweet fragrance. Sdlg. 819-1: Barley Green X Al Fresco. \$35.00

FROSTBITE (Stahly '97) TB, M, 34". Cool white with medium deep blue beards. Standards open lighter than RHS 92D, and falls about the same shade but with slight greenish cast, near RHS 155B. This has been very near pure white for us even in cool weather, and the beards have the depth of color to contrast nicely. Good stalks, good moderately ruffled form. Light spicy fragrance. Sdlg 91-32: Autograph X High Five. \$35.00

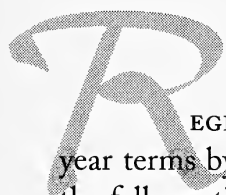
WRANGLER (Stahly '97) IB, M, 25". Standards are medium deep red-brown, falls medium violet with shoulders and a distinct 3/8" band that match the color of the standards. Style arms are yellow with violet midrib and crest; beards are brown. Two branches and terminal, five buds. Flowers of 4" x 3", in excellent proportion to the height, are of TB form with good ruffling and wide, round falls, and are of heavy substance. Sdlg. 93-1: Woodward Centennial X Plum Perfect. \$20.00

Please include \$4.00 for shipping. Most shipments sent by priority mail.

Meet the New

Regional Vice Presidents

by Barbara Aitken



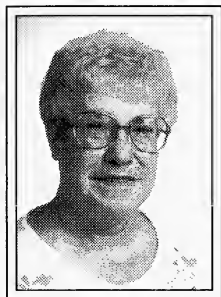
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS ARE ELECTED TO THREE year terms by their Regions and approved by the AIS Board at the fall meeting. This year's elected RVPs are as follows:

Mary Thurman

Region 7's New Vice President

Back in the mid nineteen-sixties, Mary Thurman and her husband Hugh bought a new home and planted many flowers, including irises. However, a few years later the irises became infested with borers, and had to be dug up and discarded.

Years passed, they planted more flowers, and continued to think about the irises. A friend from work invited Mary to visit an irisarian in the country, and they ended up buying forty-two irises from him. The man was Ed Roberts, a hybridizer in Region 7, who encouraged them to attend a show in Lexington. This led to their joining the Blue Grass Iris Society in Lexington, and the American Iris Society. Later, after attending an iris show in Louisville, and picking up some awards, they also joined the Louisville Area Iris Society. Mary and Hugh are both AIS accredited judges.



The Thurmans now grow about eight hundred varieties of irises, in their yard and that of a neighbor. Their collection includes about three hundred and fifty medians, fifty dwarfs, about three hundred tall bearded, together with a few Japanese, Louisianas and Siberians. As for the borers, they still try to come around, but the Thurmans have learned how to deal with them.

Elaine L. Bourque

Region 10's New Vice President

Elaine Bourque was born, raised and still resides near Lafayette, Louisiana, in the heart of "Cajun Country". She and her husband Russell



raise their irises in the small community of Milton, on the Vermillion River, on property that belonged to Russell's family. Elaine has worked as the school secretary at Milton Elementary/Middle School for 31 years; Russell is a letter carrier for the post office. They have three children and three grandsons.

Elaine's love of gardening was influenced to a degree by Russell's mother with whom they lived for seven years and who had a great enthusiasm for flowers. But her interest in Louisiana irises was sparked by Charles Arny, to whom she was introduced by her husband, who was Arny's "mailman" for many years. She spent many hours during iris season walking through Arny's garden, listening to him talk about his iris work and hybridizing.

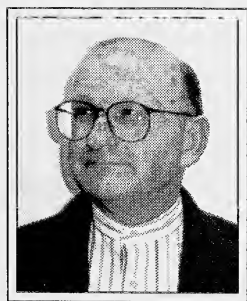
Elaine really enjoys the hybridizing part of growing Louisiana irises. She grows mostly seedlings, which she hopes to give more attention to in her retirement. Their large garden also includes many native plants and perennials. Elaine grows camellias, azaleas, and small amaryllis grown from seeds. She also raises many scented roses which she uses to make rosaries.

Elaine is an accredited AIS judge and is presently serving as treasurer of The Society for Louisiana Irises.

Brad Kasperek

Region 12's New Vice President

Byron "Brad" Kasperek was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and grew up on a dairy farm. In addition to a comprehensive, intimate education on the manufacture, distribution, and handling of natural fertilizer, he learned an appreciation for flowers from his mother. From his father, he learned the "art" of raising healthy, vigorous crops. All of this contributed to his later interest in growing, exhibiting and hybridizing flowers



In 1966 Brad enlisted in the Navy and somehow wound up in Utah where he met and married his wife Kathie. He earned his B.S. degree from the University of Utah and began work as a civilian for the Navy in Salt Lake Valley.

Kaspereks bought their first home in 1978 where they began converting lawn to flower beds. Brad concentrated first on raising

gladiolus, his mother's favorite flower, but became discouraged by their susceptibility to thrips. A neighbor convinced him to try a few thrips resistant tall bearded irises. The die was cast! Starting with six irises, their collection grew until in 1986 they were forced to move to a new home on an acre to find enough room to plant all their irises. They joined the Utah Iris Society in 1986 and the AIS in 1988, and both became accredited AIS judges.

Brad became interested in the idea of hybridizing, looking to find lines which were unusual and still in development. He became intrigued by Allan Ensminger's work with broken color flowers and variegated foliage irises. He obtained breeding stock from Ensminger, started Zebra Gardens and introduced his first iris in 1994. Since then Brad and Kathie have had a lot of fun meeting and visiting with other AIS members throughout the country.

Lorena Reid

Region 13's New Vice President

Lorena Reid was born and raised in Muncie, Indiana. She spent two years in the service, then graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology from Ball State College in Muncie, followed by a master's degree in Zoology and Entomology from Iowa State College. She moved to Eugene, Oregon in 1955, and taught Physical Education for nine years. In 1960 she married her husband Alan, and in 1964 became a member of AIS.



Lorena's interest in the beginning was primarily commercial, seeking a "home employment situation" while raising their son. Once she began raising irises, however, the interest quickly became much more, and it wasn't long before the hybridizing bug bit. She started with TBs, but when even thousands of seedlings failed to produce anything she felt was different enough, and/or superior enough, to introduce, she concentrated on Japanese, 40 chromosome Siberians, and crossing different species. Here, where there was much more room for improvement, Lorena found seedlings which she felt were "introducible". Indeed, many of her introductions have gone on to win AIS awards, including the Payne Medal for her Japanese iris FRECKLED GEISHA.

Lorena has been President of the Society for Japanese Iris, and received an Honorary Life membership in SJI for her outstanding

contributions. She has served as Secretary and a director of Region 13, and has just been elevated to the status of Emeritus judge. Lorena's interest in growing and hybridizing still remains mostly with the beardless half of the genus *Iris*, but she loves visiting the many commercial gardens in Region 13 and observing the lovely creations of our hybridizers in the bearded sections as well!

Dr. Herbert C. Holk

Region 15's New Vice President

Herb is a native of the Alabama Gulf Coast. He graduated from Auburn University in Veterinary Medicine. He joined the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and worked in Mexico nearly six



years helping to eradicate foot and mouth disease. Following this, he entered the Air Force as a veterinarian, travelling extensively in the Philippines and Panama, where he worked in Pathology at Gorgas Hospital as an additional duty. He returned to the U.S. and to college, receiving a Masters Degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. Herb retired with the rank of Colonel from the Air Force in 1978, and subsequently became Deputy Director

of Public Health in Riverside County.

Herb's love of flowers began in his teens when he worked in the gladioli farms. Much later, in 1967, he spotted a large plot of irises in Sebastopol, California, and there began the story of the travelling irises which finally came to rest in Riverside, California, where Herb and his wife Sara now operate Cal-Dixie Iris Gardens. They grow approximately three thousand irises, mostly tall bearded, on nearly two acres. In addition, they grow other bearded iris classes, and a few Louisianas, Siberians, Spurias, Japanese, Arilbreds, PCN's, Species, quite a few seedlings and even some Dutch irises. Herb has introduced tall bearded, border bearded and arilbred irises. Most of his current hybridizing efforts concentrate on reblooming cultivars.

Herb joined the AIS in 1978. He has served as President of the Inland Iris Society and combined assistant RVP and Judges Training chair of Region 15. He is an AIS garden judge, and as the military would say "bucking for a promotion".

Gloria McMillen

Region 16's New Vice President

Gloria McMillen was born and raised on a farm in Indiana and moved to Ontario, Canada in 1969. She has two sons and a four year old granddaughter who likes irises and computers!



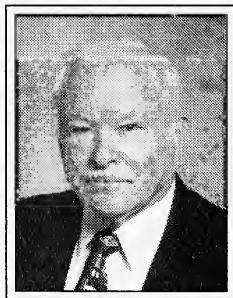
Gloria and her son Dan operate a twenty-five acre commercial iris garden near Norwich, Ontario, called McMillen's Iris Garden, which was started in 1973. They grow mostly bearded irises, but are adding more Siberians, and daylilies, each year. They ship their irises across Canada and into the United States, and really enjoy all the people they have met through the irises.

Gloria is a returning RVP for Region 16. She is a director of the Canadian Iris Society and of the local Horticultural Society. She and her sons are life members of the AIS, as well as garden judges, and Gloria has attended many AIS conventions in the past twenty years. In addition, Gloria has been a member of Scouts Canada for eighteen years and driven a school bus for sixteen years. Her latest project has been joining the Internet where she has enjoyed meeting and chatting with people all over the world. She hopes to get their 1997 catalog and pictures on their home page this year.

Lee Parker


Region 24's New Vice President

Lee Parker was born and raised in Oakland, California, where his dad was a landscape gardener. This provided him with the opportunity to see and work in many gardens. He also liked to play ball, and at times the two did conflict! As he matured, however, he began to share his dad's love of gardening, although it wasn't until the early eighties that he discovered the wonderful world of irises.



After high school Lee joined the Navy, served in World War II, and after his discharge moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where he met his wife Myra. They have been married for forty seven years, have two daughters, two sons, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter!

Lee had grown a few "Grandma Flags". Then he and his wife went to their first iris show. Lee was awestruck by what he saw: plicatas twice the size of the irises they grew; bitones and colors he had never dreamed of. They joined a local iris affiliate and the AIS. They purchased several irises from a catalog, entered some in the show the following year, and from then on they were hooked.

Lee served for twelve years as treasurer in his local iris society, but this is his first affiliation with the AIS. 

M.A.D. IRIS GARDEN

Bob and Mary Dunn
4828 Jela Way, North Highlands, CA 95660
(916) 482 0562

1997 Introductions

BAY WATCH (B. Dunn) (Eagle's Flight X Trace) Well branched beauty, a tall, crisp, clean plicata. Pale blue standards; falls with narrow edge of plum purple. Violet tipped beard. B1058A. \$40.00

COPPER CYMBAL (R. Mullin) (Lady Friend X Copper Classic) This rosy copper self has many ruffled flowers on well branched stalks. A different color that shines across the garden like new pennies. Heavy substance. Tangerine beard. Named by Phil Williams. 84-385A. \$40.00

LIBERTY LIGHT (B. Dunn) (Vibrations X My Way) Beauty in cream and ivory with pastel lilac edge. Cream styles and haft area, reminds one of ivory chiffon. Wide, wavy, with plenty of substance. B1038C. \$35.00

NOMINEE (M. Dunn) (Freestyle X Melba Hamblen's 82-42-B) This is my pet! I was so fond of Hamblen's lines, and I have one like them of my own with very ruffled chamois standards. Falls are rich rosy cordovan, fancy bicolor pattern. Copper styles & beard. Ruffled, showy, branched, and many flowers. M1062A. \$40.00

NATURAL REFLECTIONS (M. Dunn) (Patterns X Charmed Life) Standards warm white, blue violet plicata flecking, falls warm white flecked and stained deep violet, blue beard. Ruffled with substance and many flowers. M940-3. \$35.00

ROYAL DESIGN (M. Dunn) (Going My Way x Midway) X Momentum. White ground plicata, lilac lavender standards, falls with tiny deep violet edges, deep violet lines at the violet beard, wide ruffled, well branched. M885-5. \$35.00

SOUL SISTER (B. Dunn) (Sky Ship X Sea Wolf) A sister that must be seen. Blooms early to late. The entire flower is a self the color of the very famous Allegiance. Blue violet, blue beard tipped mustard. Ruffled, well branched with many flowers. B2000-4. \$35.00

Please order from this ad. Add \$5.00 for shipping.
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Previous introductions are also available. Ask for price list.
Shipping from July 14 through September 15.

ZEBRA GARDENS



Kathie and I are having so much fun, we must be doing something illegal, immoral, fattening, or maybe all three. Hugs and kisses (or a handshake if you prefer) to all of you for giving us another wonderful year! You kept us so busy digging, trimming, cleaning, and packing iris last summer that we didn't have a chance to get into any trouble (at least Brad didn't). We did run low on a few of the iris available for extras, but we hope there will be plenty in '97.

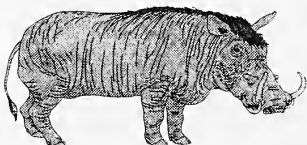
In addition to KING TUSH (TB), we're introducing four medians this year: a border, an intermediate, and two standard dwarfs. They're all respectable "kids", but GNU RAYZ and STRUTTING EGRET are definitely unique. ZEBRA HALO with its modern, laced flower and improved winter hardiness is an advancement in variegated foliage.



Don't let it burn a hole in your "pocket" - ORDER TODAY!

Again this year we're introducing iris for Don Nebeker and Hyrum Ames. Don's MISS JESSICA is an outstanding plicata in rich creamy white with a 1/8th inch rim of "embroidered" violet stitching. Hyrum's TERRYTON has clean medium yellow standards, light violet falls with tan halo and is from a cross to Tell Muhlestein's JOYCE TERRY. Dramatic yellow-orange beards!

Our catalog will again have a color cover, but "photographer" Brad still can't center the iris. (\$2 donation towards photography school appreciated!)



Brad & Kathie Kasperek
2511 West 10950 South
South Jordan, UT 84095-8308

**If you're "rooting" around for something gnu to grow
GIVE US A TRY!**

1997'Z "GNU" INTRODUCTIONS

DELIGHTSUM (*Nebeker '97*) **TB M 40"** **Large near amoena!** Brilliant white standards and falls. Standards have hint of violet on edge while falls have wide halo wash of light veronica violet. Three branches, 8-10 buds, tangerine beards tipped white, and delightful fragrance.

Nebeker sdlg. 83N-683-23 X Condottiere (N89-917-4).....\$35.00

EMU ZING (*Kasperek '97*) **BB EM 25"** **Pink streaker!** Medium Victorian pink falls and style arms rest atop laced and ruffled wide, compact, flaring falls of deep lavender pink streaked pinkish white. A bright, bushy tangerine beard accents the strong falls. 5-7 buds.

Tiger Honey X Raspberry Fudge (92B-57T).....\$25.00

GNU RAYZ (*Kasperek '97*) **IB EM 26"** **Eye catching veining!** Rich, creamy flaring falls heavily veined and edged in violet. Matching violet standards and style arms. Lavender beards tipped orange, 5-6 buds. EC '95

Tiger Honey X Flea Circus (92B-N44S).....\$25.00

JUST A CROC (*Kasperek '97*) **SDB EM 10"** **Pea-green throat & halves!** Standards and style arms light butterfly blue. Flaring, blue-green falls with dark butterfly blue spot. Beards lavender blue. 3 buds. EC in '95

Chubby Cherub X Perfume (93RM-5A).....\$12.50

KING TUSH (*Kasperek '97*) **TB ML 38"** **Season ending breaker!** Closed Victorian pink standards, gracefully ruffle with occasional light purple splashes. Matching style arms. Flaring "bruised pink" falls with light pink streaks, accented by a large, bright tangerine beard. 7 buds.

Tiger Honey X Raspberry Fudge (92B-57W).....\$40.00

MISS JESSICA (*Nebeker '97*) **TB EM 35"** **Elegant young lady!** A narrow rim of medium violet embroidery stitching surrounds rich, creamy yellow, ruffled standards and wide flaring creamy white falls. Attention grabbing Purple style arms. Tangerine beards tipped white. 7 buds

Nebeker sdlg. 33-3 X Nebeker sdlg. 31-1 (1148).....\$35.00

STRUTTING EGRET (*Kasperek '97*) **SDB ML 10"** **Clear and crisp!** Ruffled, very clean white standards and falls. Standards neatly rimmed with 1/8 inch of medium blue violet. Matching rim on flaring falls narrows at outer edges. White beard, hairs tipped blue. Modern form. 3 buds.

Shooting Sparks X Flea Circus (92P-37A).....\$12.50

TERRYTON (*Ames '97*) **TB M 35"** **Joyce Terry's Kid!** Bright medium yellow standards. White falls with hint of violet edged with light brown. Awesome bright yellow-orange beards. Light sweet fragrance. 8 buds

Joyce Terry X Nebeker sdlg. 994-1 (A921).....\$35.00

ZEBRA HALO (*Kasperek '97*) **TB M 36"** **Variegated foliage & lace!** Heavily laced, warm creamy yellow standards and falls are edged aureolin yellow. Light yellow shoulders. Modern form. Variegated show stalks. Orange beards tipped white. Improved cold hardiness. 5 buds.

Kasperek sdlg. 89F-4H X Lady Madonna (91F-52A).....\$40.00

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Order all 9, postpaid, for \$149.95

Catalog upon written request. (Answering machine "don't spell too good!")

It's Magic

Horned Iris


by Bill Maryott

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I VISITED MONTY BYERS' garden during bloom season when he happened to be blooming thousands of SKY HOOKS seedlings. Monty had decided that SKY HOOKS was a super parent, so had liberally used the pollen. He had about six or seven thousand SKY HOOKS seedlings to look at and evaluate. Many of those seedlings had horns and some were rather appealing, but all of the seedlings demonstrated a narrowness at the hafts which we both found objectionable.

I had never used SKY HOOKS as a pod or pollen parent because, frankly, I have never been too fond of horned or flounced irises. Then along came BLOWTORCH (Byers '86). It was a magnificent iris with beautiful form and satisfactory growth, from ENTOURAGE x SKY HOOKS, but it had one small fault. It had small horns.

From my past experiences I felt that horned irises breed as a dominant characteristic; that is, crossing horned or flounced irises to any iris will give a significant proportion of horned and/or flounced irises in the first generation. I elected to use BLOWTORCH with LEMON FEVER and got three rather interesting irises out of the cross. First was SUNMASTER (1995), which is yellow and white with a prominent yellow rim, on the order of JOYCE TERRY. It has no signs of horns and reblooms reliably in our mild (California) climate. Then along came a second seedling with giant flounces which I am still evaluating, and finally, IT'S MAGIC (1995), which has consistent small horns. (See photo inside back cover, January '97 *AIS Bulletin*.) Fortunately, it appears to have no defective flowers (missing petals, etc.,) which is so common with horned varieties. IT'S MAGIC shows excellent overall form, superb branching and substance.

I took a few minutes to look back into the parentage of BLOWTORCH. In the case of this iris, the pollen plants for three generations back were all horned irises, but the pod plants were not. As many as three-fourths of the varieties used in this breeding line were not horned. It is interesting to note that IT'S MAGIC has ENTOURAGE on both sides.

Monty was a mighty busy man, and three generations of THORNBIRD have the same pollen parents as BLOWTORCH. Manley Osborne's SNOW SHOES does have SKY HOOKS back in the parentage, but more often than not, the other parents are not horned varieties. 

Walter A. Moores

Cossar State Park Road

Rt. 1 Box 630

Oakland, MS 38948

Phone: (601) 623-0057 Email: wam2@ra.msstate.edu

1997 Introductions

ASCII ART TB, 32", M. Recessive plicata from Victoria Falls x Fall Spotlight, the standards are clear, cold white; falls are white ground peppered violet-blue solidly at hafts with faint violet-blue stitching around the edge. Violet-blue styles contrast with the white beards. Widely branched stalks and a bud count of eight plus make this a welcomed update of a classic pattern in a distinctive new, elegant form. The name ASCII ART is derived from a new style of art generated by computer technology and keyboard artistry. \$30.00

CONFEDERATE ROYALTY TB, 36", ML. Confederate gray standards cap deep royal purple-violet plicata falls which have a gray center spot separated by a purple-violet mid stripe. Beards are mustard. Nicely branched with an abundance of buds, this amoena plicata is alone in its color class. Purple Pepper X Gary Sides' seedling 26-E-38F (Vanity X Capricious). \$30.00

1996 Introduction

LEMON CHESS See page 65 of the April 1996 Bulletin for description and picture. A nearly faultless and foolproof iris nation-wide that is a must-have for your garden. \$17.50

Order from this ad. Add \$3.50 for priority mail. No catalog or price list.



MILLER'S MANOR GARDENS

Lynda & Roger Miller
3167 E. US 224
Ossian, IN
Phone/Fax: 219-597-7403

1997 INTRODUCTIONS

BAUBLES AND BEADS (L. Miller) MTB, 25-26", ML. Well branched stocks support the 'baubles', bright gold standards and the 'beads', red-black falls. Falls only have slight stippling at the hafts are accented by dark gold beards. 10 buds, Vigorous. 400293: Disco Jewel X Manisses. \$15.00

COMPACT BUDDY (L. Miller) MDB, 4 1/2", E. A floriferous pumila with standards of light lemon yellow, the paler falls are accented by a sunshine yellow split spot and bottom edge. 784: (What Not X Wee Sooner) X 1184A (Inca Toy X Unknown). \$10.00

HOOSEGOW (L. Miller) SDB, 11" EM. A striped plic of white with edges and vein striping of bishops purple set off by solid bishop purple style arms and white tipped brown beards. 3 buds. 1093: ((Petite Polka X Unknown) X Unknown) X Lost Cross. \$12.50

MAVERICK'S GAME (L. Miller) TB, 32", L. Get in the game with standards of medium old gold with a slight violet flush at the midribs and very flaring falls of violet plum edged red brown accented by dark gold beards. 7 buds. 100391: ((Spartan X Unknown) X Mulled Wine) X Graduation. \$35.00

MORSE CODE (L. Miller) TB, 33", L. Lightly laced and heavily ruffled blossoms of white dotted dark lavender, edges become solid dark lavender and falls have a center stripe of dark lavender. Lavender beards are tipped gold. 4689: (Anon X Queen in Calico) X ((Odyssey X Petite Posy) X Laced Cotton). \$35.00

PARTS PLUS (L. Miller) IB, 24", ML. The 'Plus' is the light violet horns extending from the tangerine beards on blossoms of pinkish orchid with a deeper flush near the beards. Pink style arms are edged apricot. Vigorous grower. 2092C: Sky Hooks X ((Inscription X Pinkie Paws) X Bright Vision). \$15.00

TOY STORY (L. Miller) SDB, 10", M. Very flaring round, ruffled formed blossoms of clear pale blue have chartreuse hefts and striking bushy deep blue beards. 3 buds. 1793: Shy Violet X! (Dove Wings X Unknown) X Azure Gem). \$12.50

WICKED WAYS (L. Miller) TB, 32", ML. Rich colored flowers of deep raspberry burgundy with dark apricot style arms and contrasting tangerine beards. Iris has been a favorite with customers. 4385B: Far Corners X Marmalade. \$35.00

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also featuring hostas, daylilies, and rare perennials.

Breeding for Space Agers

The Novelty Iris

by Lloyd Zurbrigg, North Carolina

LLOYD AUSTIN OF CALIFORNIA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS TYPE of iris. Lloyd used certain plicata seedlings, from the garden of Sydney Mitchell, which had little lumps at the end of the beards. By in-breeding, he got irises with horns, spoons and even flounces coming from this site, and he gave them the name "Space-Age", because of the Soviet Sputnik, then the center of the news.

These new Space-Age irises usually were very narrow at the haft, often heavily marked with coarse venation. The substance was often very inferior, as was the form. In addition, many were not hardy in Canada, where I was then gardening. I made a few crosses on an experimental basis, for I had seen Austin's UNICORN and MULBERRY SNOW at the National Convention in Memphis, 1957, and thought the latter to be a rather striking creation.

When Lloyd Austin brought out SUPER FLOUNCE in 1963, I got it and made a few crosses with it. The "flounce" was not particularly artistic, but it was very large. The pod parent of this was SPOON OF GOLD, an iris that several judges wrote about in the Bulletin, as being an artistic iris. My two introductions from this breeding were MISS JUPITER and MISS VENUS. They were seen at the Roanoke Convention in 1974, and won some interest, especially MISS VENUS. The cross from which they came was: (Golden Unicorn x Crinkled Ivory) X SUPER FLOUNCE.

The big break in Space-Age iris production came with Monty Byers of California. Monty and I shared the same double goal of producing reblooming irises and Space-Age irises, and we exchanged many seedlings and named varieties. I was but dabbling, compared to Monty's huge production of thousands upon thousands of seedlings each year, a majority of them from Manley Osborne's SKY HOOKS. (Monty was also an enthusiastic and colorful writer, and his catalogs were eagerly awaited by many subscribers.)

Using Monty's introductions and seedlings in my hybridizing brought a great improvement in form. Unfortunately, more than a few were not fully hardy in the East. Nevertheless, the judges at once began to become excited about the Space-Age seedlings, and I shifted more of my interest to this exciting field of breeding. Monty had felt the need of better blues, and gave us SEA WORLD and SCENTED BUBBLES. The latter came out of VICTORIA FALLS, always a good grower in Region 4, so I used it in my blue Space-Age lines. These lines featured TRUMPET CONCERTO, from GRAND DAME and MISS JUPITER. Definitely a bitone TRUMPET CONCERTO featured large, trumpet-shaped flounces, but was not consistent in producing them on all flowers. It was further crossed to the best blues.

The 1995 introduction MARGARET HELEN, named for my eldest niece, (see inside back cover, January '97 *Bulletin*) came from a blue seedling crossed to SCENTED BUBBLES. The pod parent had for its pod parent (Shipshape X Trumpet Concerto). The pod parent had its pollen parent: VICTORIA FALLS x (Grand Dame x Summer Holidays). I had hoped for large spoons or flounces, but MARGARET HELEN produced only small horns. Nevertheless, it had outstanding form and good color, though blue-violet rather than "true" blue. On occasion it might produce spoons, but short horns were typical. For the curious, I would add that GRAND DAME is a light to medium blue from (Helen Keller X Tyrolean Blue). SUMMER HOLIDAYS is a reblooming blue having in its parentage MUSIC MAKER (twice), TRITON, SKY QUEEN and TYROLEAN BLUE.

Although it seldom bears appendages here, GODSEND is a favorite among the Byers introductions. A very comely pink, it has a dash of bright purple at the end of each beard, and this trait carries through to some of its seedlings, enlivening the daily trip to the seedling rows in bloom time. There are two reselects from GODSEND and a Space-Age seedling of mine, that are likely to make introductions. One is a pink with large flounces; a somewhat similar one from Monty's HANDS UP won best seedling at the Frances Scott Keyes Show in Baltimore last spring, in a large class of over forty entries.

Probably Monty's best introduction (in the Space-Age class) was MESMERIZER, a white with huge white flounces that cover the red beards. This iris is very consistent in producing the flounces on all falls of all blossoms. I have used it more than any other in trying to produce reblooming Space-Agers, for it does rebloom freely itself in California. Crosses to RENOWN and SUNNY DISPOSITION have given seedlings with flounces, and some that rebloom, so this difficult goal no longer seems quite so remote.

It seems very fitting that this discussion on Space-Age irises could end with the news that THORNBIRD has won the Wister Medal for 1996. (See Centerfold, October '96 *Bulletin*.) This is a Space-Age introduction from Monty Byers, 1989, out of my ART OF RAPHAEL. It has a strong personality, and an excellent name. At its most typical, the greenish-tan blooms have dark purple thorn-shaped projections, that appear truly ominous. ☞

MOUNTAIN VIEW IRIS SOCIETY

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Garden Directions: Fm I-44 take Elgin toll gate exit #53: West .8 miles on Hwy 277 South to Tony Creek Road; North 3.8 miles; West .4 miles to top of hill; Garden on left side; (Can also follow signs to Collier Landing); (405) 492-5183

Mountain View Iris Society

Region 22

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



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Dedicated to the memory of Cleo Palmer

Show Chairman: James Cooper Jr

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Lawton Public Library - 110 SW 4th Street

Open to the Public - Admission Free

Plumed Delight

More on Space-Agers

by George Sutton, California

THE WRITER DOES THE MOST WHO GIVES THE READER THE most knowledge and takes from him the least time. Therefore this will be short and for the novice hybridizer!

Quoting from an article by Mrs. Sydney B. Mitchell in the October 1954 Bulletin of the American Iris Society, referring to PLUMED DELIGHT (Austin'54): "This Bizarre creation has standards of cream-white veined and washed with lilac. The falls are cream-white stippled in lilac. The beard is yellow and white ending in a deep plumed horn." A break from traditional and ancestral form? Yes. Bizarre? No.

It is no longer surprising to read about man's travel farther and farther into space. It should not be surprising therefore that the iris is undergoing a marvelous metamorphosis. Each year the space-age irises seem to produce new and exciting embellishments. The space-age iris is becoming more popular and more hybridizers are emerging, so hop aboard a star and enjoy this most adventurous of hybridizing pursuits.

There are four ways to pursue your goals. These are to cross:

- *horned clone X non-horned clone*
- *non-horned clone X horned clone*
- *horned clone X horned clone*
- *horned clone X self*

Remember, the first listed iris is the receiving or pod parent; the iris after the "X" is the pollen parent.

1. **Horned X non-horned.** These crosses have proved to have the highest rate of reselect seedlings for us.

SKY HOOKS is a marvelous parent and has produced many fine introductions, not only for us but also for a number of hybridizers. Our best results with Sky Hooks to date have been

with the following, in order of success: 1) Winterscape; 2) Honky Tonk Blues; 3) Elizabeth Poldark; 4) Contrite; 5) Silverado; 6) Hot Streak; 7) Vision in Pink.

TWICE THRILLING is producing lovely laced horned and non-horned seedlings when crossed with Sweet Musette. Other successful crosses with Twice Thrilling are Winterscape, Vision In Pink, Bubble Up and Skating Party.

COMETOME is working well with Candlegleam, Elizabeth Poldark, Contrite and Quasar. These crosses produce good branching but unfortunately are low on bud count.

ROCK STAR and LOVEBIRD are both producing good plicatas when used with Earl of Essex, Hot Streak and Power Surge. These crosses have also produced some nice rebloomers.

DAUBER'S DELIGHT has been the star in the blue lines. Nearly all of its seedlings have spoons, right down to the last flower. We've used Acoma, Busy Being Blue, Honky Tonk Blues, Kuniko, Elizabeth Poldark, Silverado, Sweet Musette, Vision in Pink and Winterscape with good results.

MESMERIZER and one of our seedlings, A-92, has also been producing very good results for us.

2. *Non-horned X horned.* These crosses have produced fewer reselects, but more that have survived the second reselect process. The percentage of horned seedlings is much higher. This type of cross has been more successful for us by far than the horned x non-horned. Once again, Dauber's Delight has been the star pollen parent, followed by Twice Thrilling, Sky Hooks, Mesmerizer, Rock Star and a Seedling, A-92 (A, B and C). The seedlings with the most consistent appendages are coming from Dauber's Delight, Mesmerizer and A-92. The non-horned clones that have been productive are the same as in the first group, used as reciprocal crosses. Add to the first non-horned group Easter Lace, Gigolo, God's Handework, Mystic Lace and Point in Time.

3. *Horned x horned.* This type of cross has been a problem for us. When Monty Byers and I discussed this about ten years ago, we concluded that the unstable genes in the Spage Agers caused the seedlings to be very inconsistent with their appendages. There are also many with two standards, four falls, double beards and a

variety of malformations. Yet, if you are willing to put up with a lot of failures, you can occasionally get some extraordinary seedlings from this type of cross. We have had two, A-92, a cross of Dauber's Delight and Sky Hooks which is a blue amoena with large fringed spoons, a ruffled pink with pale pink spoons, now named Margaret Inez, a cross of Sky Hooks and a pink horned seedling. Both of these are producing quality, consistent horned seedlings.

4. *Horned X self*. This has been a complete bust. When we tried selfing each of the better horned clones, the results were an intensification of stunted and abnormal forms. If you are looking for truly bizarre creations, this is the way to go!

If we were just starting to hybridize space age iris, we would first set a goal. Then we would cross Dauber's Delight, Sky Hooks, Twice Thrilling, Rock Star and Mesmerizer with newer, well-branched and budded non-horned irises with good form. Others would surely come up with different clones to use, and rightly so, but these are what have worked for us. There exist limitless opportunities in the iris world. Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier.

So, don't just talk about hybridizing Space-Agers, do it! After you have done it, your friends and enemies will talk about it! Have fun! ❧

Region 15 and the Spuria Society

are pleased to invite everyone to our
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Horned Seedlings

The Byers Legacy

by Sterling Innerst, Pennsylvania

THE HORNED BORDER BEARDED SEEDLING (#4093-7) ON THE back cover of the AIS Bulletin, October 1996, will be introduced in 1998. It is out of a cross of DEITY (Byers '88) x CODICIL (Innerst '85). There were sixty-four seedlings, two with horns. (DEITY is horned). Two seedlings were kept. The other one is a 40" – 46" (100 – 117cm) tall bearded which was saved from the seedling field, but later thrown out because it is too tall for me. (It never fell over, however.) Before discarding it, I gave a rhizome of this tall seedling to Terry Marquart, a collector of horned irises. This past spring, 1996, he brought a stalk of it to our iris show with four open blooms—it was beautiful! I then begged for the return of a rhizome, and got back five. Neither of these seedlings has ever been seen without its horns—seems very consistent.

From the garden of "O.D.A."

Portion of each sale donated to AIS.

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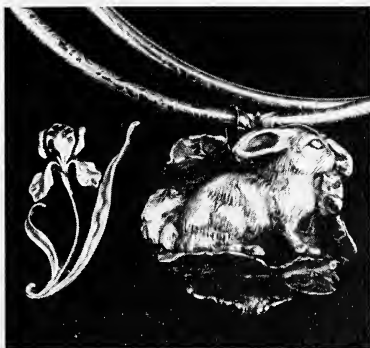
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INTRODUCTIONS FROM DAVE NISWONGER

ADD IT UP (Niswonger'97) Sdlg. SDB 4-95: Candy Queen X That's Pink. SDB, 12"(31 cm), M. When you add up, the parents of this one, you know it has to be good. A light cantaloupe orange with tangerine beards that are blue at the end. The name comes from Gloria Fairhead of Annapolis, MD. \$15.00

ALMOST HEAVEN (Niswonger'97) Sdlg. 58-92: Blue Chip Pink X Fontaine. TB, 38" (97 cm), M. This mauve pink self is from my "pink with blue beard" line. The beard is blue and the plant is hardy and vigorous. It was judged best in its Section in St. Louis at the Region 18 meeting in 1993. It is fertile both ways. \$35.00

BERLIN-CAPE CONNECTION (Tamberg-Niswonger'97) CS 1-93: Starting Calsibe X Unknown. SPEC-X, 36"(91 cm), TET, M. This is a light blue with small veinations emanating from a small yellow signal. This cultivar began when Tomas Tamberg of Berlin Germany crossed a 40 chromosome siberian seedling from *I. delavaya* x *I. clarkei* with *I. fernaldii*, a Pacific Coast Native species also with 40 chromosomes. He then treated the seeds with colchicine and doubled the chromosomes to 80. The resulting seedlings were then crossed with each other so that this cultivar represents about the fourth generation except that this cultivar is much different than its sibs. It supposedly is a sib to SILENT DREAMS but Tomas thinks that a different pollen grain must have gotten involved. This one has a different color than the rest and it has upright stems which are better than the sibs. It was the Best Species Seedling at the MASS Medley and thus won the Tiffney Cup. It won the Best in the Species Section at St. Louis at the Region 18 Show in 1993. It is a vigorous grower requiring a little more moisture than TB's. EC'93, HC'96. \$30.00

COCOA PINK (Niswonger'97) SDB 1-95: Candy Queen X Chanted. SDB, 12" (31 cm EM. This is a pink with a blue beard infused with a touch of chocolate. It was my favorite of the SDB seedlings in 1995. Fertile. \$15.00

CUTE OR WHAT (Niswonger'97) SDB 3-94: ((27-87:(Oriental Blush x ??) x Tillie)) X Chanted. SDB, 14" (36 cm), M. Quite a showy apricot with the falls having a blend of white near the center and more apricot to the edge. The beard is blue with a tangerine base. I think you will agree this is a remarkably cute addition to this class. Fertile. \$15.00

ENGLISH CREAM (Niswonger'97) ps 2-93: E. Turnipseed X ??, *I. pseudacorus* from BIS seed. Spec, 42" (107 cm), M. This is a near white flower with a slight eyezone of maroon. Has plenty of vigor for this type of plant. It is fertile both ways. \$25.00

FRANK KALICH (Niswonger'97) L1-95: *I. lactea* from seed sent to me by Frank Kalich from Russia marked "*I. songarica*". Many feel this is not songarica but lactea. This reverse bicolor with blue stds. and white falls is quit unique. It would look great in a rock garden and is an easy grower. SPEC, 20" tall and Mid-season bloomer. \$20.00

GODDESS OF PINK (Niswonger'97) IB 16-94: Sky Blue Pink X Chanted. IB, 20" (51 cm), M. This is a vigorous intermediate of pink with a touch of blue in the midribs of the stds. The beard is blue with a base of tangerine. The blooms are well formed and the plant is attractive. \$20.00

MARIE MY LOVE (Niswonger'97) 52-93: Tinted Crystal X 54- 89:(Elvis Presley x Bridal Fashion). TB, 36" (91 cm), M. This is a cool white with a white beard based yellow. The intent of the cross was to create a white with a green midrib with better form than Elvis. The form is there but the midrib is on the backside. It was the Best seedling in the SEMO Iris Show in 1995. EC'95. \$40.00

MISSOURI AUTUMN (Niswonger'97) Sp 16-93: Sp 6-80:(Far Out x Redwood Supreme) X Unknown. Spuria, 40" (102 cm), M. This light brown fairly lights up when seen from across the garden. It should make an unusual addition to your Spuria collection. Fertile both ways. \$30.00

MISSOURI IRON ORE (Niswonger'97) Sp 5-94: Mary's Beau Brummel X-Sultan's Sash. Spuria, 42" (107 cm), M. This name may not do this plant justice. It is a rich red-brown with purple infusion. The overall effect is a dark colored Spuria. It's a good grower and distinctive. Fertile. \$30.00

MISSOURI MOONLIGHT (Niswonger'97) Sp 4-94: Sp 8-88:((Sp 6-80: Far Out x Redwood Supreme) x Unknown)) X Firemist. Spuria, 40" (102 cm), M. This light yellow is from "pink" breeding. As an aside, there are not pink spurias but my friends know that I am obsessed with breeding a pink spuria. It was the form that attracted me to this iris. It is somewhat different than most spurias being wide and flat. Fertile. \$30.00

MISSOURI RAINBOWS (Niswonger'97) Sp 4-93: Missouri Rivers X Olinda. Spuria, 40" (102 cm), M. This medium blue gives a rainbow effect in the falls where there is a blending of a yellow signal with white and blue. Good wide falls somewhat flared gives a blocky form. Fertile. \$30.00

RICH IN SPIRIT (Niswonger'97) 28-92: Halo In Pink X ?? . TB, 30" (76 cm), M. This bicolor of rich apricot stds. and red violet falls edged with an apricot rim was well liked by the connoisseur of bicolors, Barry Blyth. As a parent, it has produced some very nice seedlings of rare color combinations. \$35.00

SILENT DREAMS (Tamberg-Niswonger'97) CS 2-94: Starting Calsibe X Sib but perhaps another generation of sibs crossed with each other. It came from the same seed as Berlin-Cape Connection from Tomas Tamberg of Germany—see that description. SPEC-X, TET, 32" (82 cm), M. This pale yellow with a gold signal is fertile which makes it an interesting plant to work with in this complicated parentage of 40 chromosome siberians with the Pacific Coast native species where the chromosomes have been doubled to 80. The name was given by Joy Seckler of Greenfield, TN. \$25.00

THAT'S PINK (Niswonger'97) SDB 4-93: 2-90:(Ballet Slippers x Tillie) X Chanted. SDB, 12" (31 cm), M. Substance and width of falls is no longer a problem with pink SDB's. This was overcome with fertile IB's. Both Tillie and Chanted have IB's in their background so this wide pink with a tangerine beard with a white base was the result of using them in this cross. It is fertile both ways. \$15.00

Bearded Iris Rebloom

and its Causes, Part 1

by Donald M. Spoon, Ph.D., Biologist

This is the first half of a two-part article. Look for the second half in the next AIS Bulletin. - Editor

"...within 20 years reblooming iris will probably be the only bearded iris that anyone will bother to grow."

- Ben Hager

IF THIS PREDICTION BY BEN HAGER IS TO COME TRUE, WE need to know where we stand today and what knowledge and strategies are needed to reach this ambitious goal. (When everblooming roses became available they rapidly replaced spring only bloomers.) This article addresses these needs and suggests testable hypotheses for what causes rebloom.

Contrasts between rebloomers and Spring (only) bloomers:

Reblooming, or remontant, bearded irises produce additional bloom stalks after their regular spring season of bloom. Rebloomers in general, have the following superlative traits varying in degree over spring bloomers (sometimes called oncres): more vigorous and earlier growth, more foliage growth and retention, better resistance to soft rot and other diseases as well as insect damage, improved cold weather tolerance, more new growths on the rhizome stem positioned closer to the growth producing the bloom stalk, positive response to summer and early fall watering and fertilizer, and increased numbers of bloom stalks per year. Given the required care, these desirable traits of rebloomers can be achieved. Properly cultivated, rebloomers can even match oncres in production of spring bloom.

The growth traits of bearded iris rebloomers mean that they require summer watering and fertilizer and earlier separation, yet they richly reward the gardener with many more weeks of bloom. Rebloomers are best planted together, where they can all receive

the needed extra watering and fertilizer. Rapidly growing rebloomers can eventually out compete and overgrow most spring bloomers. Commercial growers find that the best rebloomers are putting up flower stalks when they are digging irises for shipment. Growers are learning that reblooming irises are worth the extra effort. Retail outlets are finding that potted rebloomers will produce stalks in the fall, stimulating fall sales. For those of us who have an immense love of irises, we hope for the day when fall bloom equals the amount and quality of spring bloom. When this goal is achieved, reblooming irises will dominate our iris planting. To be grown, once bloomers will have to be truly unique, of historical significance, or have sentimental value. Iris fanciers account for fewer than 5% of the total market. Most gardens have only a few iris cultivars. The availability of excellent, reliable rebloomers will encourage greater use of our favorite flower.

History and Origin of Rebloom:

In the wild, where the native species grow that were used to hybridize our modern iris cultivars, these traits of rebloomers could confer reduced survival value and be noncompetitive. In cold climates, most wild species go dormant shedding their leaves during winter and also during summer and/or fall drought periods, conserving mineral nutrients like nitrogen and energy rich starch in storage tissues in their rhizomes and roots. (Notable exceptions that don't shed their leaves are *I. germanica* and some species ancestral to rebloomers) They produce new growths spaced further down the rhizome that reduce overcrowding and overgrowth, as well as maximize erosion control. The wild species produce bloom stalks in the spring season which affords the best chance for successful pollination to produce seed pods that will have time to develop viable seeds.

Rebloom has been observed in many iris species in nature, though its occurrence is rare and inconsistent. (A notable exception, described by Dykes in The Genus Iris, is *I. subbiflora*, syn. *biflora*, reported to rebloom in November in Portugal.) Possibly the nature of the climate cycle in certain areas of origin of the ancestral species of modern rebloomers favored rebloom with pollinators available to give it some survival value.

Dr. Raymond Smith in the World of Irises lists thirty iris species (including *I. pallida*) and natural hybrids that rebloom showing the trait to be widely distributed yet occurring infrequently. The wide variations in type of rebloom in species from summer, fall, winter, or everblooming led Dr. Kenneth Kidd in the World of Irises to suggest that these types are all genetically related yet vary because of modifiers that influenced their rebloom tendency. A search of the pedigrees of modern rebloomers often leads to dead ends where we don't know which species was used as a parent. It seems hard to believe that the commonly grown *plicata* hybrids of *I. variegata* and *I. pallida* were not used in early crosses that produced rebloomers, and that *I. pallida* did not contribute to rebloom.

Based on his extensive search of rebloom pedigrees, Clarence Mahan has written in the AIS Bulletin (April, 1990, #277, pp.39-44) on the origins of remontancy. He presents four "strains of remontancy" in eupogon irises:

1. Lutescens - sterile intermediates from crosses of TBs to amphidiploid hybrid *I. lutescens*,
2. Variegata-trojana - cold climate rebloomers as hybrids of *I. variegata*, *I. trojana* and Amas (*I. macrantha*),
3. Mesopotamica - warm climate rebloomers as hybrids of *I. mesopotamica* or *I. cypriana*, and also *I. variegata* that perform best with mild, dry winters.

4. Pumila - cold climate rebloomers as hybrids with *I. pumila*.

A fifth strain, Aphylla, might be added based on the success of Dr. D. Charles Nearpass to produce reblooming MTBs by crossing *I. aphylla* with TBs. Crossing these various strains has produced rebloomers that combine their traits to create our best modern form, reliable rebloomers that perform across the nation and up to zone 4. Tetraploid, hybrid bearded rebloomers demonstrate heterosis, the increase in vigor found in hybrids like mules and hybrid corn, in which inbred parents of separate lineages are crossed to produce greater vigor from that shown by either parent.

Once our hybrid irises became tetraploids there were limited opportunities to experiment with other diploid eupogon species with reblooming tendencies. Jean Witt suggests that use of

colchicine to induce tetraploids from these neglected diploid species or historic cultivars might lead to new strains of remontancy. Most likely, all eupogon irises had a common ancestor that lived long ago in a climate, perhaps similar to that of present day Portugal, when the pre Pleistocene world climate was much milder, that selected for rebloom. This might explain why rebloom is so prevalent among various eupogon species yet of little ecological significance in modern species that live under the different climate regimes of this present interglacial period.

Reliable Rebloomer Examples with Modern Form:

Hybridizers are rapidly producing reliable rebloomers with form comparable to the best spring only bloomers and in an expanding array of colors and color combinations in all bearded classes. Some notable examples that rebloom north to zone 6, where Ginny and I have our Winterberry Gardens, (2600 varieties of irises including 600 rebloomers) in the mountains of northernmost Virginia with cool summer nights and snow covered winters, are listed below with the continuous rebloomers starred (*). All are TBs unless stated:

- MAUI MOONLIGHT (IB, '87) and FROST ECHO ('95) (IMMORTALITYX(SEAWOLF(RE t-8)XIDO)) by Terry Aitken
- BLAZING SUNRISE ('85) ((PEACH SPOT X OUTER LIMITS) X PEACH SUNDAE) by Paul Black,
- HAVEN (SDB, '91), BARN DANCE ('91), CANTINA* ('90), HAND PAINTED ('90), HAPPY NEW YEAR ('90), HER ROYAL HIGHNESS ('89), HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS ('88), MISTY TWILIGHT ('88), THEN AGAIN ('89), WAVES OF GRAIN (Byers by Dickey ('94), and ZURICH ('90) by Monty Byers
- WHAT AGAIN (SDB, '91), DOODLE STRUDEL ('77), and PEACH JAM ('89) by Allan Ensminger,
- OZARK EVENING (MTB, '91) by Ken Fisher,
- DITTO (MDB, '82), PUPPY LOVE (MTB, '80), AUTUMN CIRCUS ('90), BOUNTIFUL HARVEST ('91), RECURRING DREAM ('83), and TOTAL RECALL* ('92) by Ben Hager,
- LITTLE SHOWOFF (SDB, '89), MATRIX ('91) and PINK ATTRACTION ('88) by Earl Hall,
- DOUBLE TROUBLE ('92) (SUNSET SONATA X SKY HOOKS) by Jim Hedgecock,
- GRAPE ADVENTURE ('86) and SEPTEMBER REPLAY

- (Jones by Lowe, '92) by Frank Jones,
 ♪ VIOLET MUSIC ('91) (VIOLET MIRACLE X VICTORIA FALLS) by Clarence Mahan,
 ♪ ROSALIE FIGGE ('93) (TITAN'S GLORY X VIOLET MIRACLE) by Jane McKnew,
 ♪ CELESTIAL HAPPINESS ('89) by Bernice Miller,
 ♪ MISS SCARLET (BB, '79), DIME SPOT ('84) and PINK REPRISE ('91) by Walter Moores,
 ♪ HONEY GLAZED (IB, '83), MARMALADE SKIES (BB, '78), CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE ('86) and LATE LILAC ('74), a sibling cross of two out of the cross RIPPLING WATERS X LOVELY LETTY, by David Niswonger,
 ♪ REDELTA ('94), SONATA IN BLUE ('94), and SUMMER OLYMPICS ('80) by Dr. Raymond Smith,
 ♪ PINK FAWN (SDB, '93), PLUM WINE* (SDB, '86), and AUTUMN TRYST ('93) by Dr. John Weiler, &
 ♪ BABY BLESSED* (SDB, '79), BABY PRINCE (SDB, '95), AMANDA ERIN ('85), CLARENCE ('91), EARL OF ESSEX ('80), IMMORTALITY* ('82), JENNIFER REBECCA ('84), SILVER DIVIDENDS ('89), SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS ('76), SUGAR BLUES* ('85) and SUNNY DISPOSITION ('91) by Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg.

Such rebloomers are in high demand that exceeds the supply, and are subsequently demanding higher prices in sales, auctions, and catalogs. Terry Aitken feels "that an iris that reblooms has approximately twice the dollar value of that same iris—if it did not rebloom." Rebloomers depreciate in value after introduction much slower than spring bloomers. Commercial landscapers have discovered the superior values of rebloomers over spring bloomers and are scouring the market for wholesale purchases. Many of the new commercial gardens advertising in the *AIS Bulletin* are featuring reblooming irises. In the last few years even the largest commercial growers are beginning to offer some rebloomers, even though several they have offered as rebloomers, such as ROSE PRINCESS and BEST BET, reliably rebloom only in zones 8 and 9. The AIS Section, the Reblooming Iris Society, has grown rapidly and with editors like Mike Lowe and others has produced an excellent publication, *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*. The reblooming symposium is invaluable as it reports rebloom across the country.

Suggested Classification for Rebloomers:

Rebloom is highly variable as are the notations used in catalogs to describe it. It would be of great benefit in developing improved reblooming cultivars if we adopted a standard nomenclature describing the reblooming trait. The following system is suggested to describe the various types, frequency, range, and time of rebloom.

It is best to designate the rebloom as to the farthest zone north that it will reliably rebloom such as, RE-6. Reliable rebloom even in zone 4 has been reported. (Giving the state in which it reblooms is meaningless as some states have three or four climate zones.) Of great value, would be to show the earliest month in each zone it reblooms, such as RE-6*10 for zone 6 and October, 7*9, 8*8, and 9*7, noting how rebloom is earlier as one moves south. Rebloomers that also bloom in winter in warm climates could be designated as RE-9*7&w.

The reliability of rebloom in all zones varies with the cultivar from very reliable to sporadic with only a tendency to occasionally rebloom, best designated as RE t (reblooming tendency) with

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1997 INTRODUCTIONS

BLUE AGAIN (D. Meek) TB, M, 37". Wide, lightly ruffled mid blue with a slight lighter area beside the white beards. 4 branches, 7-9 buds. (French Kiss X St. Louis Blues) #33-1-7. **\$35.00**

DADDY'S GIRL (J. Meek) TB, M-L, 36". Creamy pink lightens to pinkish ivory, touch of gold over pink flush at hafts, light ruffling, coral beard white at ends. 4 branches, 7-9 buds. (Candace x Monaco) X (Brandy x Far Corners). #102-2-6. **\$35.00**

LONELY STREET (D. Meek) TB, M-L, 35". Wide, ruffled dark red, lighter S., mustard to bronze beards. 3-4 branches, 6-7 buds. (Rancho Grande X ((Spartan x Santana) x Bridget's Choice)). #17-1-1. **\$35.00**

ORANGE IMPACT (D. Meek) TB, M-L, 34". Impressive wide ruffled & laced bright orange self with slightly open well formed S., & deeper bushy beards. 4 branches, 7 buds. (Orange Surprise X Orange Star). #214-1-1. **\$35.00**

WANTED (D. Meek) TB, M-L, 34-35". Old rose tinted mauve, deeper in midribs, Falls lighten as flower ages, light ruffling, coral beard ivory at end. 4 branches, 7 buds. (Spring Tidings X Glory Be). #91-7-0. **\$35.00**

WARM BREEZE (D. Meek) TB, M-L, 35-36". Lightly ruffled greenish gold flushed brown to tan, lightens to greenish gold with dark tan at hafts, bronze to brown beards. 3 branches, 8 buds. (Envy X Green Prophecy). #902-1-1. **\$35.00**

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the furthest zone north such as, RE t-6. A prominent example is VANITY (RE t-9) that as a pollen parent crossed on reliable cold climate rebloomers produces great modern form rebloomers, like PINK ATTRACTION (JEAN GUYMER X VANITY) and the rose-pink JENNIFER REBECCA (GRACE THOMAS X VANITY). Reliable rebloomers produce bloom stalks from new growths, effectively doubling the usual yearly growth cycle, and a few cultivars add a third cycle per year. Some rebloomers produce stalks only after the regular spring bloom season from old, rather than new growth. They should be designated as rebloom repeaters (or RE r).

Irises that rebloom in July in zone 4, 5, or 6, and continue to rebloom until frost, are called continuous rebloomers, best designated c RE without a zone designation. They can be crossed on one another, or other rebloomers, or with stored pollen as late as the first of September to produce fully matured seedpods before the first hard frost. At present, there are fewer than twenty tried and proven continuous rebloomers (c RE) that have had at least

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INTRODUCTIONS
by
Virginia Messick

MACARENA (Messick '97) TB 38" M89-119 ((Voltage X (Autumn Blush x Edna's Wish))
Ruffled peach, orange self. Best feature is the branching and perfectly placed flowers, usually three open flowers at once all saying come dance with me. Wide, well formed flowers, sturdy, fragrant and luscious coloring. Fertile. Good bud count. EC '96.-----\$35.00

LYME TYME (Messick '97) TB 36" M88-99 (Fortunata X Copper Lace)
Pale true pink standards and lime falls giving overall coloring of Pink-lemonade as one garden visitor suggested. In addition, there are light cherry hafts and beards plus lighter bronze-edged falls that are laced. Difficult and unusual coloring to describe. Nicely ruffled flowers of good form and substance. EC '94.-----\$35.00

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Manor Born (EC '94) Aladdin's Flame (HM '95)

four years nationwide testing since introduction to merit this status. These are the forerunners of the bearded irises of the future.

Operationally, nonreblooming irises, when crossed as 1st generation parents with rebloomers or nonrebloomers and produce rebloomers, can be designated as carriers of rebloom or RE c. To be designated a proven carrier of rebloom, it should be demonstrated in several crosses producing rebloom. Examples are: TIFFANY, O MY GOODNESS, and WINTER OLYMPICS. My cross of WINTER OLYMPICS (RE c) X SPINNING WHEEL (RE t-8) produced a dependable zone 6 reblooming BB, MOUSE, and several RE-7s including LUCIE ANDRY. LUCIE ANDRY, when crossed to an unregistered sibling of IMMORTALITY, "Chaste White," produced a cross in which most of the seedlings, e.g., SNOW PARASOL and FAITHFUL AND TRUE, were RE-6s with modern form like WINTER OLYMPICS. I have discovered that ENCHANTED WORLD, HINDENBURG, HOMECOMING QUEEN, MYSTIQUE, ORBITER, POET, and PRECIOUS MOMENTS are rebloom carriers. LEMON REFLECTION (RE-5) X (HINDENBURG X LEMON REFLECTION) produced our modern form LEMON LOLLIPOP (RE-6). Hybridizers please take note, that this demonstrates a good general procedure for developing new modern form rebloomers. My LILLA'S GLOVES (RE-7) X ORBITER (RE c) produced my PURPLE MAGIC, a flaring, ruffled, modern form purple rebloomer (RE-7). I obtained improved, ruffled, modern form RE-6s out of BILLIONAIRE (RE-6) X PRECIOUS MOMENTS (RE c) and PRECIOUS MOMENTS (RE c) X HARVEST OF MEMORIES (RE-5). If we extend this operational definition to grandparents (RE c2, for second generation ancestor) then the list greatly expands. My COSMIC DANCE patterned RAFA, with wide, ruffled falls out of HONKY TONK BLUES (RE c2?) X QUEEN DOROTHY (RE-5), with relatively narrow falls, crossed with DOODLE STRUDEL (RE-7) produced a modern form RE-6 similar to COSMIC DANCE. Is this just adding vigor (heterosis), or is this great Dykes Medal winner (Honky Tonk Blues) a carrier of

genetic traits for rebloom? MISS ILLINI may be such a RE-c2, in the cross that produced Zurbrigg's spectacularly ruffled, modern form 1976 introduction SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS (RE-5), when crossed to IMMORTALITY (c RE) produced the lovely SUNNY DISPOSITION (RE-5). The proven rebloom carrier CRINKLED IVORY is the great grandparent (RE c3) that produced the incomparable flaring and ruffled plicata EARL OF ESSEX (RE-5) that Hager used as pollen on (SPACE ODYSSEY X SOCIALITE) to produce the superb, striped plicata AUTUMN CIRCUS (RE-6).

In the 1997 AIS Symposium for the 100 favorite tall bearded irises nearly 50% of the top 35 favorites are rebloomers: 1 c RE, 1 RE-5, 1 RE-6, 1 RE t-7, 3 RE-8s, and 10 RE t-9s and 2 RE carriers. Among the remaining 65 in the Symposium, there are approximately 10 rebloomers. In recent years, many top awards for the various bearded classes have gone to rebloomers. One large commercial grower reported its top selling iris was one of the reblooming symposium favorites, JENNIFER REBECCA.

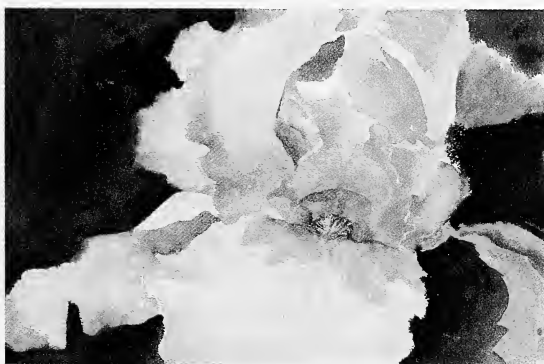
Bed Preparation and Fertilization for Rebloomers:

Generally, experienced rebloomer growers cultivate their new beds down at least eight inches and mix into the soil copious supplies of various organic amendments, such as aged animal manure, well composted leaf mold, peat moss, bone meal, blood meal, powdered milk supplement used to feed calves, and alfalfa pellets used for rabbit or horse feed. The basic idea is the more the merrier up to about 25% total organic amendments, as long as the fertilizer is several inches below the level of the rhizome. It is this nutrient rich layer that will be tapped by the deep fibrous roots that will support the flower stalks. On top of this layer is built up a four to six inch raised bed of topsoil, loam with 30% clay, 30% silt, 30% sand, and 10% aged organic material. In this raised area are planted the rhizomes in the regular fashion. The soil is pressed down to firmly hold the rhizomes in place, and thereafter, the bed is walked on as little as possible to retain its structure and air content. Some of the best rebloom results have been obtained by giving this top level a dose of liquid fertilizer

such as Miracle Grow in mid or late summer after a dry period so the chemicals penetrate and are captured in the soil.

A light dusting of the beds with wood ashes in early spring helps replace micronutrients.

We would all like to know how to keep our beds productive without the need to remake them completely every 3-5 years. Owings and Doris Rebert have maintained maximum iris bloom stalk production in the same beds for 45 years. They mix 10-10-10 (N P K) fertilizer with an equal portion of super phosphate, and in early spring scatter one handful of this mixture around each clump. For rebloomers it is advisable to fertilize again after the spring bloom is over. Some prefer to use a one half inch covering of coarse construction sand to help penetration of water and reduce the chance for soil pathogens like fungi and bacteria from splashing on the leaves. If your area doesn't have soft rot problems and your soil drains well, mulching the whole raised bed lightly (no more than 1" deep) with double shredded hard wood bark, except over the exposed tops of the rhizomes, will greatly reduce



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weeding and retain moisture and applied liquid fertilizer. Also, covering the paths around the beds with single shredded tree nursery mulch every three years will help earthworms to replenish the organic content.

There are rebloomers that will produce good spring and fall rebloom with minimal extra watering and fertilizer. Some examples are AUTUMN BUGLER, AUTUMN ENCORE, BABY BLESSED, BORN AGAIN, GOLDEN ENCORE, GRAPE ADVENTURE, IMMORTALITY, JEWEL BABY, JULY SUNSHINE, PURPLE DUET, QUEEN DOROTHY, and YOUTH DEW. Even though some of these are not of modern form, they should be used more in our breeding programs.

Managing Fall Rebloom:

The discovery of emerging rebloom buds at their earliest appearance is an art form and can be as much fun as an Easter egg hunt. Usually bud stalks appear from the largest fans in the clump. To prevent damage from a light frost before a fall show, bamboo canes can be used to support double plastic bags weighted at the base. You can also dig the clump, or part of it, with lots of soil, pot it in a large container, and enjoy watching the stalks develop in the house. After a hard freeze, you should remove all bloom stalks from the garden, no matter how short, with a slanted cut to aid drainage and prevent rot. Stalks brought inside before the first hard freeze will continue to open flowers for weeks. Amazingly, developing stalks of some rebloomers can take a hard freeze down to 28 degrees F and appear frozen solid, then thaw without apparent damage and produce normal blooms if a warm spell occurs. The SDB rebloomers have superior cold hardiness especially those from wide crosses with some *I. pumila* heritage like JEWEL BABY, BABY BLESSED, and BABY PRINCE.

[Next issue, look for the second half of this article for discussion of Iris plant physiology and genetics, hypotheses for cause of rebloom, and strategies for obtaining quality bearded Iris rebloomers. - Editor]

Request for Guest Bearded Irises

Oklahoma City, 1999

The Sooner State Iris Society and Region 22 of The American Iris Society will host The American Iris Society Convention in 1999. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introduction or seedlings under serious consideration for introduction. This includes all types of bearded irises.

When sending guest irises, please observe the following guidelines:

1. A maximum of three rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted July 10, 1997 – September 10, 1997.
3. All guest plants should be shipped to:
 Perry Parrish
 3228 N. W. 35TH Street
 Oklahoma City, OK 73112
4. The following information should accompany each plant:
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address
 - b. Name or number of the variety
 - c. Type of iris
 - d. Height and general color.
 - e. Year of introduction, if introduced
5. Please include a packing list with each package sent. Be sure plants are legibly labeled.
6. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman not later than November 1, 1998, in order that the name can be included in the convention booklet and on garden labels.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors.
7. In early 1999, a request for information regarding disposition of guest irises will be mailed to each contributor. Failure to reply by June 1, 1999, will constitute permission to destroy all numbered seedlings and dispose of all other plants as deemed appropriate by the Guest Iris Committee. Official guest irises which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid except to foreign addresses.
8. The Convention Committee and owners of display gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.
9. The Guest Iris Committee will not be held responsible for losses beyond its control.
10. Only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairman will be listed in the Convention booklet.

Contest Winners

1996 Membership Contest

by Linda Miller

Affiliate Participants

- 1st place:** Iris Club of Southeast Michigan, Region 6, 525 points
- 2nd place:** Francis Scott Key Iris Society, Region 4, 400 points
- 3rd place:** Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society, Region 4, 305 points
- 4th place:** Alleghany Highlands Iris Society, Region 4, 295 points
- 5th place:** Central Virginia Iris Society, Region 4, 215 points
- 6th place:** Charlotte Iris Society, Region 4, 205 points
- 7th place:** Portsmouth, Chesapeake & Suffolk Iris Society, Region 4, 195 points
- 8th place:** Tidewater Iris Society, Region 4, 65 points
- 9th place:** Fredericksburg Area Iris Society, Region 4, 20 points
- 10th place:** Virginia Peninsula Area Iris Society, Region 4, 15 points
- 11th place:** Eastern Shore Iris Society, Region 4, 10 points

Individual Participants

- 1st place:** Mary Herrington, 245 points
- 2nd place:** Darlene Pinegar, 20 points
- (tie) Steve Smart, 20 points

These points represent 36 new single annual memberships, 10 new single triennial memberships, 12 new dual annual memberships, 5 new dual triennial memberships, 4 new youths without bulletin, 3 new youth with bulletin, 20 conversions from single annual to single triennial, 2 conversions from single annual to dual triennial (awarded same points as dual annual to dual triennial), 4 conversions from dual annual to dual triennial, 4 conversions to single life memberships, and 5 conversions to dual life memberships. No youth participated this year. See October '96 *AIS Bulletin*, page 44 for rules and points scoring. ♪



Pied Beauty

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Glory be to God for dappled things—

For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;

For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;

Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;

Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and
plough;

And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;

Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:

Praise him.

The dictionary defines it as being covered with patches or spots of two or more colors. Gerard Manley Hopkins called it Pied. I have called it Variegated. Brad Kasperek calls it Broken Color. More and more Iris lovers are calling it beautiful.

As a result of the growing popularity we are on the horns of a dilemma. We sold too many Irises last year, so our recent introductions and named varieties ended the season with only small plants. Those seedlings that we have selected for introduction are still in such small quantity that there are too few to register and offer for sale.

So we have decided that we must wait until June when we have seen how many salable Irises are available before we make a price list.

If you are interested in Nebraska grown Irises, send us a stamped, self addressed envelope, and we will send you our price list as soon as it is available.

VARIGAY GARDENS

Allan Ensminger

7909 Cornhusker Hwy

Lincoln, NE 68507



KEIKO'S WORLD (L Johnson 1997)M 36" \$40.00

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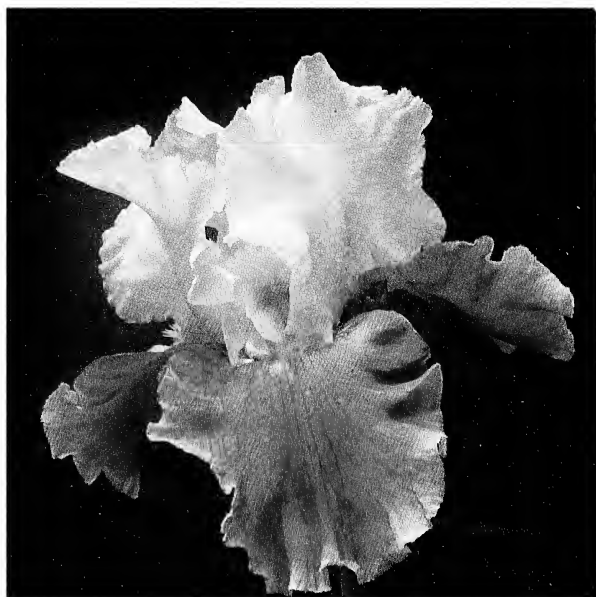
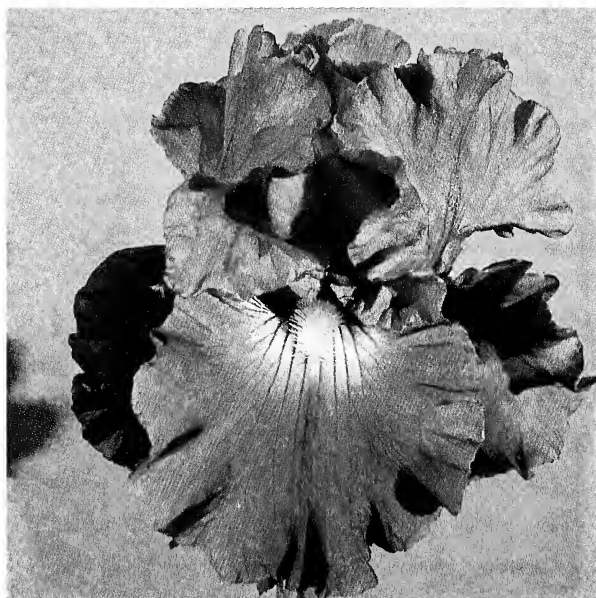
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 Silverton, Oregon 97381-0126

Rainbow Acres*Mildred Anne**Wes Silva*

MILDRED ANNE

(Frederick Kerr 1997) *Sdlg. 905307. TB 38" (GYPSY WOMAN X SILVERADO)*. This was one of the best of an excellent cross of over one hundred seedlings. At seven inches in diameter it is larger by far than any similarly colored variety of our acquaintance. The stalk has three branches, spur and terminal with a minimum of seven buds. The lightly ruffled flowers open with very pale lavender standards which soon turn white with a slight infusion of rose lavender at the base of the midribs. The semi-flaring falls are overlapping and of a beautiful lavender rose color which, in mature flowers, is slightly lighter at the edges and around the beards. The beards are white, becoming yellow in the throat. A large stock of this variety makes possible to it at this low price.....\$30.00

WES SILVA

(Frederick Kerr 1997) *Sdlg. 910301B. TB 42" (RAINBOW ETUDE X STARMASTER)*. RAINBOW ETUDE was one of our first introductions and it was distinguished by the white signal area around the beards. We wanted to carry out this pattern on a darker flower and selected Starmaster as the pollen parent. We raised over 300 seedlings from this cross and this seedling has the same signal with an altogether larger flower, whiter beard, taller stalk and richer navy blue coloration. A bonus feature is the strong fragrance of rootbeer. Rightly described as a beacon in the garden it draws all visitors to it.....\$35.00

Other 1997 Introductions

Kiss of Kisses (Frederick Kerr 1997) TB. Yellow standards. Falls white with wide rose band. Wide yellow hafts. Dark yellow beards.....\$35.00

Forgotten Secret (Frederick Kerr 1997) Small TB. Yellow standards. Falls smoky lavender. (Edith Wolford X Betty Simon).....\$30.00

Ivory Goddess (Frederick Kerr 1997) TB. Cream standards over white falls with yellow hafts and beards. Large flower, terrific stalk\$35.00

Dark Reflection (Frederick Kerr 1997) IB Neglecta plicata opens three on a stalk. Very showy. Standards white with light blue lavender edge. Falls clear white with dark blue violet edge.....\$15.00

Please include \$5.00 shipping charges.

CA residents add sales tax.

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3239 i street, North Highlands, CA 95660-3113

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First Aid Tips for Irises

Cultural Tips

by Terry Aitken

AS WINTER EASES ITS IRON GRIP AND THE SNOW LINE recedes northward in many parts of the country, our plants awaken from a long winter's nap, stretch, then shout for joy! Another bloom season is upon us! Let's give them a helping hand as they bend over backwards (or preferably straight up) to please us.

As spring growth rises in the bearded iris patch, watch for collapsing fans or discoloration at the base of the foliage, or soft rhizomes. That tender first flush of growth is vulnerable to late spring frosts which can fracture plant tissue, and rot can set in. It is wise not to fertilize until the threat of hard freezes is past, usually about four weeks before bloom. Another clue to trouble is a rather unpleasant odor from the rhizome. The quick and inexpensive fix is to scrape out the damaged tissue of the rhizome and drench the wound with liquid bleach. For a larger problem, the next line of defense is a broadcast spraying of *Agri-mycin* (or *Streptomycin*). It comes in eight ounce packages and looks like brown sugar. It is available through agricultural supply stores and is not a restricted chemical. It seems to dry up the damaged tissue. This should save the clump. Also, clear away any debris from rhizomes (and discard in garbage, don't compost) so that the sun can lend its healing powers to the surviving plant.

Another problem which is much less common, but occasionally may show up, is root rot. It is usually associated with unusually wet soil conditions. A soil drench of *Terraclor* is our first weapon of choice to solve a variety of subsoil ills. Another more recent option would be a chemical labelled 3336, which is applied as a drench for either crown rot in beardless irises or root rot in all irises. Obviously, loose, well drained soil or raised beds would alleviate much of this problem, but those are not always options.

A problem for irisarians in the eastern half of the United States, for both bearded and beardless irises, is iris borers. They seem to be more of a problem in locations that have heavy clay soils, but not much of a problem with sandy soil areas. This seems to imply that there is a vulnerable stage in the life cycle of the borer—perhaps the eggs hatching in dry soil or debris, deeper penetration of frost in dry soils. In talking to eastern growers, there seems to be an ideal time, early in the season, to spray for chemical control. The quick fix, first chemical of choice by veterans is *Cygon III* or *Dimethoate* (same thing). This is a systemic insecticide which is sprayed onto the foliage, is absorbed into the sap stream and travels throughout the plant, rendering the entire plant poisonous and immune to munching and sucking critters. It seems to be effective for approximately three weeks. We add a sticker spreader to the mix (liquid detergent is usually convenient) so that the liquid spray sticks to the foliage rather than running off. These chemicals are available through agricultural supply stores, and are not restricted chemicals.

Another cosmetic and weather related problem which seems to show up when night temperatures are in the 50° F range, or higher, and combined with dew, is “leaf spot”, which is very similar in behavior to mildew (in roses and columbine), and the cures are the same. The old standby cure is *Benlate* (or *Benomyl*) which is applied in combination with a systemic insecticide for a “one spray cures all” approach. The latest “cure-all” is Ortho’s *Isotox IV* plus *Funginex* in a combined single spray application every three weeks.

Keeping ahead of the weeds is another story. *Roundup* has been a favorite weapon for control of some weeds. It works best in early spring, and adding a stickative such as liquid detergent seems to enhance effectiveness. It is not a cure all, as clover and portulaca seem immune. It is very effective against chick weed, dandelions, thistles and grass. It acts to starve the plant for about thirty days. If the plant—friend or foe—can survive that long, it will begin to revive. So, if you get chemical drift onto your iris foliage, you may get some really distorted looking flowers, but the plants, with their storage rhizomes, can sometimes survive the thirty days, revive, grow and be fine the following bloom season.

We are watching a new chemical called *Ornamec 170* which kills grass specifically. So far, we hear that chemical drift onto the bearded irises is not causing damage. We have no reports on performance with beardless irises. More news next spring! 🌸

FAN'S IRIS GARDEN

CHUN (FRANK) FAN

14 Chestnut Drive

East Windsor, NJ 08520

NEW INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1997

MAGIC PALETTE (Chun Fan '97) TB, 33" (84 cm), EM.

A romantic plicata with rich jewel tones reminiscent of 17th Century Venice. Antique gold upright and swirled standards are set off by the rich plum border of its well-rounded frilled falls of buttery yellow and cream ground. Tangerine beard. Very vigorous with excellent branching. 6 buds; 10 stalks. Big hit at the Sacramento 1996 AIS Convention. F91-616-B. Oh Babe X P89-102 (Mel's seedling) \$40.00

EAGLE'S WING (Chun Fan '97) TB, 40" (102 cm), M-ML.

Your attention is caught by what appears to be buffed silver glimmering in the sunlight. Then, as you peer closer, hints of soft violet can be seen in the silver gray self of this most elegant iris. Deep blue beards emphasize the silver texture. Excellent branching. 6-7 buds. Navy Strut X Song of Norway\$30.00

PREVIOUS INTRODUCTIONS

MELTED BUTTER (Chun Fan '94) TB, 39" (99 cm), M-ML.

The color of fresh cream in early Spring, its pure clean tones of melted yellow and creamy white will leave a lasting impression. HC '91, HM '96 with 48 votes and Perry Dyer's #1 choice for 1996 Contemporary Award. \$20.00

Enclose \$5.00 for shipping and handling.

SPECIAL OFFER! All three (Magic Palette, Eagle's Wing and Melted Butter) for \$70.00

Chicanery (D. R. Spence 1997) Sdlg. S83-286-1, TB, SAI, 42". This cultivar features very unusual coloration! Standards are pale lavender with gold veins. The "gold" coloration mentioned in this description appears as gold - not yellow. They are domed, closed, ruffled and laced. The style arms are lavender and gold. The falls are parchment with a 1/8" gold edging, gold shoulders, ruffling, nice flare and lace. The beards are orange turning to lavender for the last 1/8". The flower has variable horns ranging from none to 1/2" hairy lavender horns. Hence, it's name "Chicanery" as it is completely unpredictable and up to tricks with regard to adornments! The plant features 2 branches plus spur and terminal with 6 to 8 buds. Substance for this variety is heavy. Placement of flowers is near perfect. It can easily place 3 flowers in show position. The show bench is an excellent place for appreciating this iris' very unique coloration! Flower size is 7" by 3.5". It has never produced any freaks for us during testing. It also is one of the best growing iris we have ever seen. Lastly, it is the single most fertile pod parent we have ever encountered and also a potent pollen parent. We are growing hundreds of seedlings from it at this time! We expect some interesting things from this iris as a parent. (Chartreuse Ruffles X Lavender Petticoat) \$35.00

Radioland (D. R. Spence 1997) S83-336-1 TB, 39", E-M. The 1930's was a time of great sorrow and a time of a dream of a better future. You had both the depression and the rise of Art Deco styling reflecting the world of tomorrow. During this era radio was at its peak. We had stars of the airwaves who had voices much more famous than their faces. Radioland is named in honor of that great era. A creation which would easily be at home in an Art Deco setting. The standards are pale gold with 1/4" darker gold halo and are domed and closed. The falls are white ground with 1/4" pale rose dotted plicata border and are very round with nearly touching hafts and heavy flare. The entire flower form, for that matter, is exceptionally round and features very good substance and pleasing ruffling. There are 2 branches plus spur and terminal with 8 buds and near perfectly spaced flowers. Show stalks are frequently produced by Radioland in our garden. The beards are old gold. The plant is also robust in its growth, which comes from its reblooming parent Spyglass Hill. However, Radioland does not rebloom for us. Certainly our best introduction to date! ((Spyglass Hill X DSIT-2 (Odyssey X Smoky Jo)) \$40.00

Visa & Mastercard are accepted. Shipments are made in July & August. A **full color** catalog is available for \$2.00. Shipping is \$4.75 per order.

Master Creations 3970 N. Hwy. 89, Prescott, AZ 86301
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Meet the New

AIS Directors

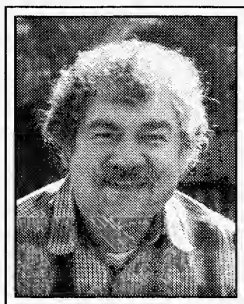
by Barbara Aitken

SACH YEAR AT THE FALL AIS BOARD MEETING, SEVERAL Board positions come up for election. This year's winners are as follows:

Mike Moller

New AIS Director

Mike was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, where he attended the University of Nebraska. He began working as a computer field engineer for UNISYS in 1972. He purchased his first irises from Schliefert's Iris Gardens in Murdock, Nebraska in 1974. In 1977, UNISYS moved him to Colorado Springs to work inside Cheyenne Mountain, at NORAD.



Mike continued to grow irises, entered shows, and in 1982, joined the Elmohr Iris Society. He became president in 1987, the same year he became an AIS Garden Judge. During this time he also began the Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens, which has received a good response

from hybridizers across the country and around the world.

In 1993 Mike became RVP for Region 20, and was also appointed as Slides Chairman for AIS. During his time as Chairman, he started a new set of slides named "Iris Trivia", that is now the most requested slide show. In 1995 he served as RVP Representative to the AIS Board of Directors.

In 1995 Mike moved to Littleton, Colorado to work for Logical Solutions Co., Inc. His new garden is growing slowly, with much care and effort put into making this garden enjoyable for visitors as well as the Moller family. When you talk of Mike, you cannot forget Nina and Shelly. Many of his accomplishments would not have happened without their effort and support.

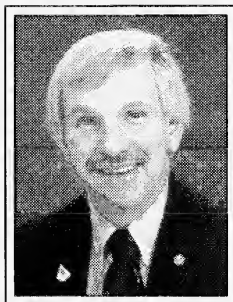
Mike has given many informative Judges' training sessions throughout the United States on the subject of point scoring irises in the garden. He really enjoys teaching this class because the feedback from iris people is a learning experience for him as well.

Mike is a budding hybridizer, with three tall bearded introductions to date, and many seedling hopefuls in the median classes.

Riley Probst

New AIS Director

Riley Probst is a native of Missouri, grew up in Springfield, and obtained a degree in Business Administration and Economics from Drury College. He is a Materials Control Manager at Mallinckrodt Chemical in St. Louis, MO where he has worked for almost twenty-nine years.



Riley has been growing irises in his Kirkwood, MO garden for over twenty years. He grows over 1,000 varieties of tall beards, 500 other named varieties in addition to several hundred seedlings, mostly TBs and MTBs. At present he has one MTB and two tall bearded introductions, in addition to PRETTY QUIRKY, an MTB introduced by his late wife Ann in 1992, which won an HM in 1995. He is a charter member of the Kirkwood Iris Society as well as a member of the O'Fallon, Jeffco and Kirkwood Iris Societies. His garden has been on tour for several regional iris tours as well as the Japanese Iris Convention in 1996. Riley is past RVP of Region 18 (Kansas and Missouri) and has served as treasurer of the Greater St Louis Iris Society.

Riley is a life member of AIS and has been an accredited judge for over ten years. He is also active in eight other sections of AIS, including charter and life member of the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) of which he is currently Vice President. He is also an avid iris photographer, and has contributed both articles and pictures for publication in the AIS Bulletin and other section publications.

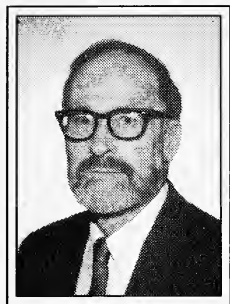
Mike Lowe

New AIS Director

To quote Mike: "The tale is easily told: I'm a gardener too dumb to say 'NO' who struggles with too much ground under cultivation and

too many commitments”.

The iris game started for Mike Lowe in the early sixties, with time-outs to park his irises with inlaws while serving in overseas assignments during his career as a Navy officer. He has long since chucked the anchor and he and his wife Anne now raise irises as a row crop in southern Virginia.



Active involvement in local iris societies and the AIS did not begin until after the kids had been introduced to college and careers in the early 1980s. The organizational side of irises, as well as Mike's professional life, has been, and continues to be, inextricably tied to computers. Association with them started when computers used vacuum tubes and were sized like small houses. And no,

that doesn't necessarily indicate that he is a Methuselah!

Some of his past and present iris jobs include: Chapter, Regional, and Section editing, registrar for a couple of National conventions, graphics for every conceivable occasion, a World Wide Web site for the Historic Iris Society, committee jobs for AIS, as well as photographing and writing for publication. After all, with his computer, all that is required is to find and push the button labeled "Just Do It"!

What is Mike's vision of the part he can play in the iris world? He hopes to help make information easily and copiously available to all interested gardeners, be it Horticultural literature; Check Lists; society publications, current and past; photographs; a question to a gardening friend on the other side of the globe; indeed, information in every form. He feels the AIS should be in the vanguard, ensuring that this information structure is built and made available to all. The barriers of time, distance, and availability must crumble in the plant information world even as they are now doing on a wider stage. ~

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

Joan & Ken Roberts

2590 Wellworth Way, West Friendship, MD 21794

1997 INTRODUCTIONS

CANARY DELIGHT (J. Roberts '97) TB, 36" M. Sdlg. 573-1. This yellow amoena has delighted all. Canary falls, rimmed with white to match the standards; bright yellow beards. Wide, flaring form with excellent branching and 8 buds. Rose Princess X 326RE-2:(Immortality x Coral Chalice). EC, HC '96. \$35.00

CORNHUSKER AUTUMN (Weiler '97) SDB, 10", E-M & RE. A pretty maize yellow bitone with contrasting beards of light lavender-blue. Good autumn rebloom in CA & NE, hardiness zones 9, 5, suggesting rebloom over much of the US. 2-3 buds. Involved seedlings. \$10.00

FOND REMEMBRANCE (Weiler '97) IB, 18", E-L & RE. Dark blue-violet bitone flowers on 2-branched stalks with 5 buds. Reblooms in CA, NE, likely most area hardiness zones 5-9. ((Third Charm x Plum Wine) x (Watersmeet x Third Charm) X Raven's Return. \$15.00

GARDEN CLUB DELIGHT (Zurbrigg '97) 37" M. & RE. Sdlg. JJ 93-8-2. Garden Club members consistently chose this as their favorite. Large wide flower of excellent form has a sparkling white background attractively patterned with violet markings. Growth and well branched stalks are perfection. Reblooms MD,VA, zones 6,7. Best Seedling at the Region 4 Fall Show '93. Fertile both ways. Matrix X Suky. \$35.00

GLITTER BIT (Weiler '97) SDB, 10", EML & RE. A beautiful flaring flower of glittering gold with shocking violet beards. 2-3 buds. Blooms for a long time in spring and again for weeks in fall in CA, MD, zones 7,9. From involved seedlings. \$10.00

HALLOWEEN RAINBOW (Weiler '97) IB, 20", E-L & RE. Opalescent white flowers with hints of violet and creamy flushes in cool weather sport bright orange red beards. Two branches, 5 buds. Lots of fall rebloom. Rainbow Sherbet X Halloween Halo. \$15.00

LADIES' NIGHT (Zurbrigg '97) 37" M. Sdlg. KK 12-1-1. Greatly admired, this iris is dark violet near-black, with highlights of red. Very smooth, ample form and wide, without markings. Candelabra branching. It does not rebloom, although Holy Night, its pod parent does. Excellent parent. Holy Night X Lady Friend. \$35.00

LLOYD'S CHOICE (J. Roberts '97) TB, 36" M. Sdlg. 525-8. Behold a purple iris with rosy hafts! Substance and branching are excellent. 7-8 buds. Greatly admired by Lloyd Zurbrigg, it is named in his honor. Not a rebloomer, it depends entirely on its blooms to win its way into your heart. Titan's Glory X Mulled Wine. \$35.00

RAVEN'S RETURN (Weiler '97) TB, 37", EML & RE. A beautiful, ruffled black violet bitone with dark violet beards borne on well branched stalks. Reblooms rather late some years. Ravenwood X Satin Satan sib. \$35.00

ROMAN CARNIVAL (Nearpass '97) TB, 36" M. Sdlg. 88-20. A terrific iris with pale violet standards suffused with lavender dots. White ruffled falls, heavily stippled purple, are highlighted by rusty orange beards. Purple Pepper X Rose Tattoo. \$35.00

INTRODUCTION SPECIAL !! Order *All* 1997 introductions for \$200 and *Save* \$60.

No extras are given on this special.

Enclose \$4.00 for shipping.

Catalog \$2.00

AIS Insurance

Michelle Snyder - Chairperson

Since taking over as Insurance Chair from Mike Lowe I have received several phone calls, letters and E-Mails from around the country inquiring about who is covered under the AIS policy and also what to do if the venue a club is using for a show/sale requires to be named as an Additional Insured while the event is taking place.

Regarding the AIS Insurance Policy. All affiliated clubs are automatically covered under the AIS policy. However, the only individuals that are covered are those that are AIS members. If a incident were to occur while an event was taking place the injured person would most likely bring a claim against the club holding the event. As long as the club is an affiliate the AIS policy would apply.

As for venues requesting to be shown as Additional Insured there is now a charge for this. It is \$50.00 per day. It does not matter the size of the venue being used. If a show/sale is three days long then the charge is \$150. In order to obtain the Certificate showing the venue as Additional Insured a check needs to be sent to our agent along with the name and address of the venue and the number of days involved. The check should be made payable to *Rodman Insurance Agency, Inc.* It should be sent to the attention of Ruth Anne Pattangall. Rodmans address is as follows:

Rodman Insurance Agency, Inc.

75 Wells Avenue

Newton Centre, MA 02159-3297

Phone: (617) 527-2636. Fax: (617) 965-2947.

Please rest assured I am always available to answer any questions you might have regarding the coverage available under the AIS policy. Or, if you have general insurance questions I will try and answer those as well. My address is:

Michelle Snyder

7855 Ellenbogen Street

Sunland, CA 91040

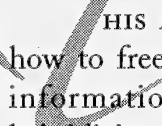
Work: (213) 525-3794. Home: (818) 352-7018.

E-Mail: SAMMYGIZ@AOL.COM

Love in a Cold Climate

Basic Hybridizing & Freezing Pollen

by Marky Smith

 HIS ARTICLE BEGAN AS A RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON how to freeze and store iris pollen. The letter requesting this information also contained many questions about basic hybridizing. We'll deal with basics first, and then focus on freezing pollen for later use.

Basic Hybridizing

The simple mechanics of hybridizing take the pollen-bearing anthers of one iris chosen for a cross and apply that pollen to the stigmatic lips of a second chosen iris. The iris receiving the pollen is called the *pod* parent and the pollen donor is the *pollen* parent. Perhaps you like the marvelous color of the SDB DARK VADER and the round, ruffled form of CHUBBY CHEEKS. (I work with Standard Dwarfs, but the mechanics here are universal, tall or small, bearded or beardless.) With luck, in your garden early on a sunny morning, both of these irises have just opened a fresh flower. Jake a good pair of tweezers and remove a pollen anther from DARK VADER. The anther should be “dehisced,” that is, open, so that you can see the fluffy pollen. (A cheap pair of reading half-glasses will help, if your eagle vision betrays you up close.) Take the anther to the fresh flower of CHUBBY and carefully rub the pollen on the sticky stigmatic lips. Do all three of the lips, using more than one pollen anther from DARK VADER if needed, as each lip connects to one third of the compartmented seed pod. *Be sure* that the flowers are not wet with rainwater or dew. If they are, shake off all the water carefully and let the flowers dry for an hour before pollinating. You *must* keep your powder—oops, pollen—dry.

After you have pollinated CHUBBY, write a tag, (something that will not collapse to mush in a rainstorm,) with indelible pen or pencil and attach it below the base of the pollinated flower. It

should say CHUBBY CHEEKS X DARK VADER. While you're at it, take anthers from CHUBBY and pollinate DARK VADER in the same way. This tag will read: DARK VADER X CHUBBY CHEEKS. These are called *reciprocal crosses* and are good safeguards, especially if potential fertility of either or both parents is unknown. Some irises are not pod-fertile; they won't set seed. Some cultivars never have pollen, the anther is strange and wizened when first opened. If you're lucky, there may be traces of pollen at each lower corner of the anther, which you can remove with a flat-ended toothpick and spread gently on your pod parent. But, usually, you're forced to use the pollenless flower as the pod parent only. For example, TWEETY BIRD, a good parent, never has pollen in my garden. One year I killed the plant by setting eight pods on the poor thing.

Plan to pollinate your chosen parents several more times, as fresh flowers open. Some irises make large seed pods—up to seventy seeds in some Tall Bearded pods. Some, especially the most difficult crosses and many SDB X TB crosses for Intermediates, make only a few seeds per pod, and not all of those will germinate. It would be ideal to grow at least 100 plants of a cross to get a good selection, though we all settle for what we get. If you bloom only a few plants, but they seem promising, you can repeat the cross. But keep in mind that costs you another two years of waiting for results.

After completing the cross, a week of patience is in order. You can (and will) make other crosses while you're waiting. Keep a notebook and write all the crosses you make every day, then delete failures and highlight those that "take." Time required for determining a "take" depends on the daily temperatures.

Cold weather takes longer. I generally test the seed pod at the base of the flower after one week, by feeling for size. The pod should start to swell. Be sure you don't clean your plant and remove the wilted, pollinated flower and its pod by mistake while waiting. Tagging each flower in the cross is a helpful reminder and also discourages your friends from cleaning your plants while they're visiting. If you're unsure if the pod is swelling, test a fresh or unpollinated flower on the plant for comparison. If you still are

unsure, don't give up until the pod shrivels and falls off. If the flower is fertilized, the flower will wilt and dry but the pod will increase in size for almost a month.

It takes 60-80 days for pod maturity in my northern garden, and I harvest seed when the pod begins to split open. Some pods turn light brown when ripe; some are very pale, but all begin to split at the top, opposite the stem. If you think you won't be home when that happens, (summer vacation,) bag each pod in agricultural cloth, (Reemay,) or fine netting and harvest carefully when you get back. When I harvest the seed, I count and save the fat, healthy seeds and discard any that are small and soft. Put each cross in a separate envelope, (separate reciprocal crosses too, sometimes one parent is better than the other as a seed maker and you'll get better germination. Make a note for your records next year-how many seeds planted vs how many sprouted.) I allow the seeds to dry before planting, though many people use venous techniques for refrigerating, germinating in wet paper towels, etc.

I plant the seeds densely in potting soil, about $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" deep, (depending on seed size,) in separate pots, the last weekend of October, when it's too cold for immediate germination. If you plant in open ground, you will find that not all seeds germinate the first year, which requires you to sterilize your planting soil the following fall or find a new area of the garden to plant the next crop of seeds. Second year germination confuses new crosses. With pots, if the germination of an important cross is poor, remove the few seedlings carefully and save the pot to germinate another year. For me, poor germination results from a difficult cross or a warm spell in January-February, (during which the seeds begin to germinate,) followed by a hard freeze which kills the nascent seedlings. Last January, it was 60° for two weeks, followed by a week of minus 20° in February.) I get approximately 50% germination, (25% on IB crosses) and so try to make enough seed to allow for percentages. If you have a greenhouse, your percentages should be much better.

I put a marker labeling the cross in each pot and place the planted pots in a shallow trench on the north side of a three foot wall, where the sun will not touch them. I water and cover all the

pots for the winter. In late March, I dig up the pots and place them on top of the wall, where I water them every day. (My climate is very dry.) In a normal year, I will see the first tiny shoots by mid April. By late May the seedlings are large enough to take out of their pots and plant out in "com" rows in good soil. Just bore a 3"-4" deep hole with a weeder, ease in the small roots, firm the soil and water them in. I use the pot label, (on a metal tag,) to mark the beginning of each cross. Like all baby seedlings, they take some attention and care. Then another year of patience is in force while I wait for the following spring and first bloom.

Before the seedlings bloom, you might do some thinning by foliage. Heavy, ratty, or twisted foliage is undesirable, as is foliage that dies back heavily from the tip. If you are working with Miniature Dwarfs or any of the Medians, foliage proportion is required. CHUBBY CHEEKS characteristically throws heavy foliage, so you would watch your seedlings for coarseness. One of the best hybridizing tools is a sharp shovel and a willingness to use it! Another is your car, which gets you out to other gardens to see *what's been done already*. There are already many bronzy-greeny-brown SDBs out there, and likewise, many pale yellows. If you get one of these, think about carrying that seedling on for another generation, and then *only* if it has excellent form or a different beard. Good records will remind you of the parents and you can breed back to one, or cross two of the seedlings together to intensify some trait. (Sometimes, all you intensify are the faults.)

Now we depart from mechanics to art. Personally, because space is in short supply, I am ruthless with seedlings. Out of 800 – 1,000 yearly, I allow myself to keep 50 – 70 at most of that year's crop. The following year, I cut those selections by half again. Some seedlings do change from the first to the second year of their bloom, mainly in size, rarely in perceived color, sometimes becoming more interesting and sometimes disintegrating into coarseness. Your eye, your taste and space allowed must take over here.

Freezing Pollen

If you try to hybridize, it takes about ten minutes to discover that your projected cross is a problem, as one of the desired parents

is not blooming when the other one is. Here's an easy answer: freeze the pollen of the available parent and save it. The tools you'll need are very simple. You already have tweezers. Augment these with number triple zero gelatin capsules (#000) which you can buy from your local druggist—less than \$20.00 for a box of one hundred. One box will last at least a year, if you keep the capsules dry. (While you're talking to the druggist, ask him for those little dehumidifiers that come with pills, especially if you live where it's humid.) You'll also need to buy a waterproof permanent pen, (I use Sharpie Extra Fine or Ultra Fine,) which you can find at a good office supply house.

You can store pollen in the freezer in various ways. I started by labeling empty pill bottles with major color groups—Pink, Blue, Plicata, etc., and storing appropriate capsules in them. Then I “borrowed” one of Jim's fishing boxes, a flat, clear one with a hinged lid, compartmented for flies. In the compartments, I fitted squares of colored paper—pink, blue, red, white, black, (multi for plicata), etc. (Also along the lines of “garden fisherman,” Terry Aitken uses a fishing vest, with lots of little pockets, when he's hybridizing. It carries tweezers, marking pen, tags, glasses for us “mature” types with failing eyes, and so forth. Put it on; you're all set.)

During the winter, I make a planned list of crosses to try during bloom. These continue several lines I'm working, or remind me to utilize new material. Once bloom starts, I keep this list on the freezer door, and refer to it daily. Sometimes, when I actually see a flower I theorized, I'll change my mind. Color is changeable in different soils, and mine is alkaline, as opposed to the gardens in Seattle and Portland which are acidic. I also use alfalfa pellets, a growth booster, especially for first year plants, and sometimes, the Standard Dwarf is nibbling at my knee and looks too coarse for what I have in mind. In contrast, sometimes the charisma of the moment overwhelms me to try crosses I never thought of on paper.

With the list in mind, as one parent of the projected team blooms and has pollen, I remove the anther with the tweezers and pop the anthers inside a clean #000 capsule. A capsule will take 3–6 anthers. After closing, I write the name of the cultivar or seedling number with the non-smear Sharpie on the capsule,

(To repeat: don't get these capsules wet, as they melt and stick.) The morning's collection goes right in the freezer in the colored sections of the fly box. When the next parent of the team opens, I pull out the box *briefly*, select the labeled pollen (there may be several different cultivars in each color section by that time,) and put the box back in the freezer. The pollen should not freeze and thaw repetitively.


Sometimes, I take only one anther in hand and return the capsule to the box. One fluffy SDB anther will do an entire SDB flower normally, (it generally takes two or three to make an IB cross on a Tall.) You need no special effort to protect the frozen anther, which thaws very quickly. Apply it promptly and normally to the pod parent, then tag as usual with the cross information.

To breed Standard Dwarfs, one contends with spring rains and sometimes, frosts. I keep a supply of 5 gallon plastic buckets, which I buy cheaply at a local feed store. When I see a bud about to open on a flower I want, I pop a bucket over its head for the night, which protects it from rain, sprinklers at night, drying winds and even some frost. I "bucket" flowers which will supply pollen as often as I do a pod parent-to-be. Further, after making the cross, I put the bucket back for protection and leave it 24 - 48 hours, depending on air temperature and all elements above. TBs are too tall to do this.

Remember that pollen must be fresh and fluffy. Freezing will keep it viable, if you are careful and timely in collecting, storing, and using. It should not dry out in strong winds and hot sun, nor should it ever get wet. All are literally fatal to a living substance. Once frozen, pollens generally are viable for an entire iris season, if evenly frozen and thawed just before using. Pollen storage could continue for use on rebloomers, but I have no records on what percentage will work.

One caveat: this technique works for me, as I'm free to work in the garden in the morning, when pollen is fresh and anthers have dehisced. Further, my climate is high mountain desert, so most pollen stays viable for some time, if protected from wind, thunderstorms, and so forth. The success ratio in rainy or humid climates may not be very high. Bennett Jones in Portland stores

anthers in small glassine envelopes for later use. In my climate, I have had better results with frozen pollen than with pollen collected and dried elsewhere. If you are collecting pollen in a friend's garden, (and they do not hybridize themselves,) ask if you might take a flower home. "Fresh" is still the very best.

Whether you spread pollen fresh, frozen or dried, have fun, keep notes, and be patient, When those first seedlings bloom, you may be addicted suddenly. Most of us started daubing a few flowers just this way. 

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1997 INTRODUCTIONS

MIL BYERS (Byers by Dickey '97) (sdlg. EM 92-1) Tall bearded, 30", E., RE (Unknown parentage). This beautiful flower is named after Monty's number one supporter, his mother. MIL BYERS (the flower) is a lovely shade of peach and a wonderful grower. This is usually one of the first flowers to bloom in the spring for us and is a very reliable rebloomer summer and fall. A wonderful addition to Monty's pink/peach line. \$35.00

RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE (Dickey '97) (sdlg. P 106-1) Tall bearded, 30", E. (Blatant x Eagle's Flight). This sweetie has creamy standards which top white falls that are edged with a rich red raspberry stitching. A great plicata that looks good enough to eat (but please don't!). Very good growth and a garden favorite. \$35.00

WISH COME TRUE (Dickey '97) (sdlg. PB 58-2) Tall bearded, 32", E-M. (Harvest of Memories x Star Master). A very large wavy ruffled flower with medium blue violet standards. The falls are a deeper blue violet edged with a lighter blue. An excellent grower with many large flowers that seemed to bloom the entire spring. \$35.00

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1997 INTRODUCTIONS FROM ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES

ABIDING JOY (G. Sutton '97) TB 38" M-L. A gorgeous ruffled sea lavender self with a little amethyst at base of S. Nicely branched and budded with touching F.; slight sweet fragrance. A very pretty flower that should do well at mid season shows. (Winterscape x Sky Hooks). \$35.00

AMERICAN PATRIOT (C. Bartlett '97) IB 23" E-M. An American Patriot from Great Britain. This red, white and blue cutie will enhance your garden. Its branching should make it a great show flower. (((Diligence x Eyebright) x A2, Arden sib)) x Cannington Delight). \$20.00

APOLLO ONE (G. Sutton '97) TB SA 34" E-M. This one is different; order early as there are many advance orders. S. are white ground sanded and edged spirea red (RHS 63A); style arms are white and burgundy; F. are white striped and edged spirea red; beards are bronze gold tipped light burgundy, spirea red horns; pronounced sweet fragrance. (Point In Time x Sky Hooks). \$40.00

AUTUMN HARBOR (G. Sutton '97) TB 38" E-M & RE. S. wisteria blue; F. gentian blue; beards wisteria faintly tipped yellow. Nicely ruffled; late rebloom. (Scented Nutmeg x Faithfulness). \$35.00

BONUS BUCKS (G. Sutton '97) TB 35" M-L. Ruffled diamond dusted ethyl blue, hyacinth blue spot at inside base of S.; cobalt blue beards, bronze in throat; pronounced spicy sweet fragrance. (Ice Castle x Touch of Bronze). \$35.00

BUGLES AND HORNS (G. Sutton '97) TB SA 38" M-L. Large ruffled white self; style arms serrated; beards yellow white at end with white horns and flounces. (Dauber's Delight x Kuniko). \$35.00

BYE BYE BLUES (G. Sutton '97) TB SA 37" M-L. E.C. at 96 National Convention. Very popular since its maiden bloom. Lovely ruffled form, great stalks and many buds of hyacinth to wisteria blue S. and wisteria blue F. Hyacinth blue beards ending in hyacinth and wisteria blue spoons usually to the last flower. (Dauber's Delight x Honky Tonk Blues). Order early; this one is going fast. \$40.00

CIRCUS CIRCUS (G. Sutton '97) TB 37" E-M-L. Extremely popular at the '96 Convention where it received an H.C. S. are light lilac veined darker; F. are white with heavy violet veining and edging; violet beards. (Momentum x 4-33: ((Heavenly Harmony x Petite Posey) x French Gown)). \$35.00

DOUBLE BYTE (G. Sutton '97) SDB 13" VE & RE. S. are lemon yellow; F. lemon yellow edge, almond shell center; white beards; lightly ruffled. (Manchu Coffee x Amazon Princess). \$12.00

DOUBLE CHARM (G. Sutton '97) TB 37" VE-M 8 RE. S. amethyst violet flushed aster violet at midrib, sea lavender edge; F. aster violet veined darker sea lavender edge; sea lavender beards tipped yellow in throat; nicely ruffled; late rebloomer. (Chapeau Blanc x Glory Story). \$35.00

GOLDEN ROAD (G. Sutton '97) TB VE-E-M. Occasional rebloom. One of the parents of Forever Gold. S. blended yellows; F. same with gold veining and a 1/4" gold center band to the end of F. Ruffled; displays well in the garden. (Orange Popsicle x Lemon Custard). \$35.00

FOREVER GOLD (G. Sutton '97) TB 35" E-M & RE. This yellow gold self begins reblooming here in late August and continues off and on until a killer frost arrives. Very similar in form to Immortality. Ruffled; small white area around tangerine beards. (C95: (Orange Popsicle x Lemon Custard) x C-101: (4-12: (Hindu Magic x (Crinoline x President Farnsworth)) x 4-178: (Faithfulness x Scented Nutmeg))). \$35.00

GOLDEN IMMORTAL (G. Sutton '97) TB 37" E-M-L & RE. Nicely ruffled beauty with serrated edges. S. barium yellow; touching F. are Naples yellow, white around cadmium beards. The final touch is 1/4" bronze gold midline on F. Sept. - Oct. rebloom here. (Orange Popsicle x Zurich). \$35.00

GOLDFINGER (G. Sutton '97) TB SA 35" E-M-L. S. mimosa yellow edged dark lemon; F. white, edged dark lemon, golden yellow hafts; bright spectrum orange beards, mimosa yellow to dark lemon flounces; ruffled and lightly laced. A standout in the garden. (Candlegleam x Sky Hooks). \$35.00

HONEY SCOOP (G. Sutton '97) TB SA 35" E-M. S. chrome yellow edged sulphur yellow; F. white veined and edged sulphur yellow; bright tangerine beards ending in cream to chrome yellow spoons; ruffled and lightly laced. Spectacular! (Contrite x Sky Hooks). \$35.00

HOOKEM HORNS (G. Sutton '97) TB SA 38" E-M. S. lilac purple slightly lighter at midribs; F. ruby red, white spray pattern around beards, edges darker; beards white changing to yellow in throat, ending in 1/2" bald ruby red horns. Ruffled. (Bubble Up x Sky Hooks). \$35.00

LITTLE VIOLET CHARM (G. Sutton '97) SDB 11" E-M & RE. A ruffled cutie with violet S. and blended plum purple and violet F.; violet blue beards. Has rebloomed every year for us in early Nov. (Plum Perfect x Third Charm). \$10.00

POWDER BLUE CADILLAC (G. Sutton '97) TB 36" E-M. Nicely ruffled cornflower blue with darker veining; white beards tipped yellow in throat. Nicely branched and budded. Makes a good garden flower and show spike. (Busy Being Blue x Honky Tonk Blues). \$35.00

PRETTY AGAIN (G. Sutton '97) SDB 10" E & RE. Ruffled greenish yellow with dark straw yellow thumbprint; white beards tipped mustard in throat. (Sno Jo x Twice Blessed). \$12.00

SOMERSET BLUE (C. Bartlett '97) TB 36" M-L. Impeccable branching and buds, typical of British iris. S. soft mid blue; F. slightly darker with white to yellow beards. Generously ruffled. In all a lovely flower. (Pledge Allegiance x Breakers). \$35.00

TEMPLE MEADS (C. Bartlett '97) IB 25" M. S. pale greyed blue; F. deep violet; cream beards to yellow in throat. Nice. (Gossip x Snowbrook). \$15.00

THREE SEASONS (G. Sutton '97) TB 35" E-M & RE. Ruffled white, F. veined verdigris; white beards. Usually blooms 3 times a year for us. (Waltz Across Texas x Orange Popsicle). \$35.00

WINGS OF PEACE (G. Sutton '97) TB SA 38" E-M. Huge highly ruffled white self; white beards tipped yellow in throat with 1" wide dove wing spoons. Thick well-branched stalks; seven to nine buds. (Skating Party x Twice Thrilling). \$35.00

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How the Iris Saved Civilization

by Clarence Mahan

ALTHOUGH I HAD READ FAVORABLE REVIEWS OF THE book *How the Irish Saved Civilization* (Anchor Books, 1995) by Thomas Cahill, I waited until the paperback edition had been on the New York Times bestseller list for 24 weeks before buying and reading it. I do not know why I waited so long. It is probably because of some secret, and possibly snobbish, aversion to histories put out under catchy titles. *How the Irish Saved Civilization* is a fascinating book—scholarly, well written and filled with wisdom. As I read this book I often thought of the American Iris Society.

I can hear the comments already! What in the world does a book about the fall of Rome and conversion of the Irish to Christianity have to do with irises? Well, I have an answer for this. The lesson which I believe this book holds for us lies in how the Irish saved Western civilization.

Roman civilization was based on knowledge. The Romans were a highly literate people who prized books and education. The first three public libraries were established in Rome during the reign of Augustus. By the time of Constantine there were twenty-eight public libraries in Rome. Where Roman power went, and it spread far indeed, schools and libraries were founded.

Rome never conquered Ireland, and the Celtic Irish were an illiterate people without cities or the accouterments of civilization. Just forty-four years before the final fall of Rome to the barbarian Odoacer, St. Patrick took Christianity to Ireland. In a brief span of thirty years, Patrick not only converted the entire Irish race to Christianity, but also taught them how to read and write Latin script. At the great monasteries founded in Patrick's wake, the Irish fell in love with learning and books.

Barbaric hordes of Vandals, Goths, Saxons, Huns and others burned, looted and murdered across Europe during the 6th and 7th centuries. The Irish monks built more and more abbeys and

sent out missions to find more and more books—Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Coptic—which they copied, copied, copied. As all the libraries on the Continent were closed or destroyed, the great abbeys of Ireland became great libraries.

New kingdoms arose during the Middle Ages, such as those of the Franks, Angles, Saxons, and Burgundians. Their illiterate rulers asked the Irish monks to come, bring books and educate their sons. Irish clerics were also invited to found monasteries and schools at Paris, Ghent, Glastonbury, Rome, Verona, Salzburg, Mainz and at scores of other cities and towns across Europe. And even when not invited, they came with their faith and their books.


As a result of the rise of the Western barbarian tribes and fall of Rome, all the lands of the Western Roman Empire fell into darkness. It was by saving the books that the Irish saved civilization.

Although many members of AIS have strongly supported the goal of having our own AIS library, there have been not just a few detractors. “Why should we use AIS resources for a library that only benefits the few people who are interested in that sort of thing?” “Don’t we have better things to use our money for than a library?” “Just a bunch of old catalogues and papers no one is ever going to read.” I have heard these remarks—and worse!

Knowledge is not forever. It must be preserved and passed on to one’s successors. The story of the development of modern irises began early in the 19th century with DeBure, Jacques and, above all others, Lémon. In this century, the center of iris development has been North America. This has not been because North Americans are smarter or more clever than Europeans or the Japanese. It has been the result of the founding of the American Iris Society and its active support of iris breeding, coupled with the great setback to ornamental plant breeding in Europe and Japan accruing from the devastation of WW II.

Irrespective as to why it has happened, we in AIS have a great store of knowledge accumulated in our files, archives and books. Surely it is our duty to the future to preserve this knowledge and pass it on to future generations. With this in mind, make a contribution to the AIS Library Fund. Local societies, recognize a

hard working member by making a gift in his or her honor to the Library Fund. Regions and Sections, your support is needed too.

The next time someone raises a question about having our library, tell him about how the Irish saved civilization. And what about the title "How the Iris Saved Civilization?" How else could I have ever gotten you to read this article and plea for supporting our library. Checks should be made out to the AIS Library Fund and sent to our Secretary, Jeanne Clay Plank. 

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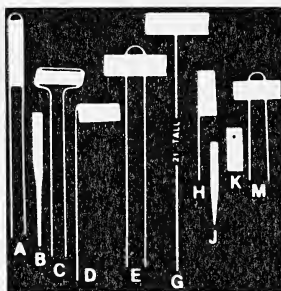
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Japanese Irises

Siberian Irises

1997 McEwen Siberian Iris Introduction

HARPSWELL'S PRINCESS KAREN (T7 S85/97 (4)): Tetraploid, mid season to late. One of the finest Siberian irises we have seen. Selected as a worthy memorial to our dear friend, Karen Merryman, beloved by the entire Harpswell community. Lovely 5 1/2" flowers are held on tall, 36" stalks. Very dark blue (darker than RHS 94A) falls contrast with lighter (94D) standards and are enhanced by green signals (148D). Form is round and ruffled.

Regency Buck x (Adj x Dear Dianne)\$35.00

1997 Mc Ewen Japanese Iris Introduction

ENTICING GEISHA (J89/28): Diploid, mid season to late, 3 falls. The 7 1/2" flowers are held on 36" stalks. Falls are light violet (RHS 91C) with dark blue violet (90A) halos surrounding rich yellow signals, and veins of 90A radiating to the edges of the falls. Standards are lighter violet. Excellent arching form and nicely ruffled. (Ahsi-no-Ukifune x Kalamazoo)\$30.00

1997 Kamo Nursery Japanese Iris Introductions

KAMIJI-NO-HOMARE (Glory of the Way of the Gods) Ichie 1980: Diploid, 3 falls, mid season. 8 1/2" magnificent flowers on 36" stalks. One of the most beautiful, velvety, very dark purple (83A) flowers with arching, round 4 1/4" ruffled falls. Contrasting light violet styles have large dark tufts and edging. Excellent branching. (Yamataikoku x Minokotobuki)\$35.00

OGI-NO-MATO (Target Fan) Ichie 1984: Diploid, 3 falls, mid season. 36" stalks carry lovely 7" arching blooms. Falls are close to true blue (96C) at center blending to violet-blue at the edges and distinguished by prominent white lines radiating to the edges. Dark edged light bluish standards and white styles tufted light blue complete the charming picture. Nicely branched.

(Mai Ogi x Hana-no- Kaze)\$30.00

WARABE-UTA (Child's Song) Ichie 8A-123, 1992: Diploid, 3 falls, small flower type, early to late mid season, height 36." Falls have white centers blending to dark red-purple (77A) at outer 3/4." Standards are white with dark purple edging. Styles also white with purple tufts. The 4 1/2" arching flowers literally cover the plant for a long period of bloom. Well branched and vigorous. (HO-6 from small flowered seedlings x Naga #14 from seedlings at Nagai Ayame Park)\$30.00

**For a descriptive price list of previous introductions
Please send 32 cent stamp and your address**

World Iris Association

Voice of an Outsider

by Lech Komarnicki, Warsaw, Poland

MUCH HAS BEEN SPOKEN ABOUT FORMING A World Iris Association (WIA), and some minds seem so stirred up that I decided to add some questions to the discussion in the hope that someone would answer them.

The idea of uniting all the irisarians of the world sounds very attractive. It has some practical implications which may be of importance. However, there are problems which should be clarified.

1. Membership: If it would be a union of national societies, what about irisarians from the countries in which there is not a society? It would mean discrimination if they were to be left outside the new organization. Individual membership would need a big and multilingual membership office. Mixed membership would cause problems with the bylaws.

2. Membership Dues: Small societies from less developed countries or from the new democracies are too poor to pay equal subscription rates compared to the established societies. If the dues would depend on the number of members of each society, it would mean the AIS would take on its back nearly all the burden of WIA. The increase of membership dues of AIS would be imminent and would probably eliminate less prosperous members. In turn, individual subscriptions would make WIA a hazardous affair as only big membership would maintain such an organization. It should be remembered that while \$10.00 may not mean much for some people, it may mean a lot of money for members from some of the new democracies and less developed countries.

3. Language of Communication: Obviously English. But what about other languages of the world—Chinese, French, German,

Japanese, Russian, Spanish? Certainly it would be more in the spirit of democracy to use them too. But can you imagine editing bulletins in all these languages? And the costs of translating and printing many editions? How many people would be needed for such work? So perhaps Esperanto as neutral would do? But who is able to read in Esperanto? So, back to English, which would mean the necessity of nominating an editor from the members of AIS and BIS only. Are these societies prepared for editing yet another bulletin?


4. Reading about "Headquarters": it is easy to imagine the need for an office, then possibly a building, some directors, secretaries, desks, telephones, computers. This would be apart from the costs of the meetings of the board at least once a year. And what about a general meeting?

5. Shadows of the past float over this idea: I remember the World Federation of Democratic Youth, World Federation of Trade Unions, etc. Now we are talking about the idea of a Central Iris Committee, central rules, central world awards, world popularity polls, world competitions, possible only in the USA. (In Australia the quarantine eliminates such a possibility.) To me this sounds a bit frightening.

6. How many iris society members are there in countries other than the United States? I would estimate the number would be less than two thousand, which would be about 25% of the AIS membership. Are we ready to undertake such an effort with such an imbalance of powers?

Please try to understand, I have nothing against the exchange of views, experiences, methods of operation, bulletins, etc. between the iris societies and individuals. On the contrary, I am enthusiastic about such contacts. But I am afraid of the weight of the new organization, once set in motion, may easily overwhelm an individual iris lover. An elephant may easily overlook an ant.

I am hopeful for some answers to lessen my doubts. Meanwhile, I would like to remind readers that an organization uniting all the leading hybridizers of the world as well as thousands of growers; an organization with many sections of special interests, editing an excellent bulletin four times a year, with a long tradition

and knowledge of registering irises and how to promote them; an organization open for all irisarians from the most distant corners of the world, already exists. In fact, we already have the World Iris Organization. It is called *The American Iris Society*. Do we really need another one? 

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<i>a well proportioned small tall with tightly ruffled creamy golden standards and flaring white falls</i>	
Schubertiad (Jameson 97) EM 34''	\$30.00
<i>apricot standards and hafts, rosy violet falls with a variable blue blaze under the red orange beard</i>	
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Doo Dah (92) blue white mid blue bitone blend	\$ 5.00
Emanations (96) gold standards, purple falls with brown rim	\$25.00
Lion's Share (92) lemon cream, ivory white reverse bitone	\$ 5.00
Madame Froth (95) orchid, rose violet bicolor	\$15.00
Mavis Waves (94) pink, blue lavender bicolor	\$10.00
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Traitor (94) pastel greenish blue bitone, navy beard	\$10.00
Whipped Honey (96) extremely laced honey, orchid bicolor	\$25.00
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WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1997 BY DON SPOON

BLACK TEDDY BEAR BB, 27" (69 cm), ML. Velvety, lightly ruffled purple black self. Standards, style arms, and beards purple black with falls slightly darker. Blackness comparable to Hello Darkness, a unique color in a border bearded. Up to seven buds. Fertile both ways. Baby Blessed x Little Blackfoot\$25.00

GLADYS LEE TB, 34" (86 cm), ML. Flared and ruffled creamy white with peachy pink darker zones in the center of the petals. Lighter edges and zonal below the tangerine beards. Wonderful peaches and cream effect. Best Seedling for C & P Iris Society 1991 spring show. Fertile both ways, producing progeny with this pigment distribution. Excellent wide branching and seven buds. Named for an outstanding C & P Iris Society member. Cataldo x Infinite Grace.....\$40.00

MELANIE ANN TB, 38" (97 cm), ML. Light rose pink plicata with white background and tangerine beards. Flared and ruffled. Delicate plicata pattern with dots and veins. Best Seedling at C & P Iris Society 1993 spring show. Up to ten buds on wide branching. Remarkably vigorous for growth and increase. Cold hardy foliage. Fertile both ways. Named for the real Blaney Marlow's granddaughter. Poet x Sweet Anita.....\$40.00

PHANTOM MASQUERADE TB, 45" (114 cm), ML. Purple black self with white rays around the purple black beards that are brushed gold. Flared with arching falls giving the effect of a spinning cape of a white masked phantom of the opera. Seven buds on strong, well branched stalks. Blue ribbon seedling winner. The tallest and most vigorous iris we grow. Needs lots of room and full sun. Fertile both ways. Superstition X Night Owl.....\$40.00

PRINCESS ELEXIS TB, 32" (81 cm), ML. Uniquely beautiful baby ribbon pink self with lighter area around the tangerine beards. Finely etched pink venation. Horizontally flared with upturned edges of the falls that are overlapping at the immaculately clean hafts. Wonderfully ruffled and laced. Standards slightly open to show large, laced style crests. Seven buds and well branched. Fertile both ways. Romantic Mood X Pink Pink\$40.00

MOUSE BB, 18 " (46 cm), M-RE (Late September in Virginia mountains, zone 6). Rare maculosa pattern on falls. Very dependable rebloomer. Butter yellow petals and style arms with yellow beards. Teardrop shaped and sized purple spots with pointed ends to center passed to offspring as a dominant trait. Horizontally flared and ruffled wide falls with maroon veining on brighter yellow hafts. Fertile both ways. Named mouse as the smallest from this cross. Winter Olympics x Spinning Wheel.....\$25.00

PEACH PARASOL BB, 19" (48 cm), M-RE (Late September in our zone 6). Flared and ruffled peach bitone (RHS 24D) with falls overlaid orchid (75C) and beards darker peach (25A). Very dependable continuous rebloomer with beautiful branching to 9 buds. Has rebloomed for us two months after division and replanting. Vigorous. Fertile both ways. Faux Pas x Ozark Evening.....\$25.00

PRECIOUS HARVEST TB, 29" (74 cm), ML & RE (October in zone 7). Ruffled and lightly laced yellow self with lighter zonal below darker yellow beard. Falls are very wide and also ruffled at the hafts. Good branching. Precious Moments x Harvest of Memories.....\$40.00

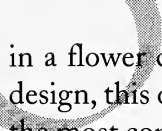
PURPLE MAGIC TB, 32" (81 cm), EM & RE (October in zone 7). Flaring, ruffled purple self with purple beard tipped yellow. Best modern form on a purple rebloomer we have seen. Exceptional pollen parent, fertile both ways. Lilla's Gloves x Orbiter.....\$40.00

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Design Corner

Gaining a Balance

by Carolyn Hawkins



ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT THINGS TO ACCOMPLISH in a flower design is to get it balanced. Of all of the principles of design, this one usually has more description, more emphasis and is the most common mistake that evades designers as they struggle to decide "what is wrong?"

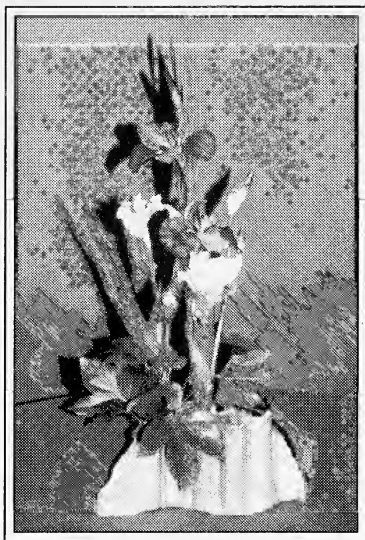
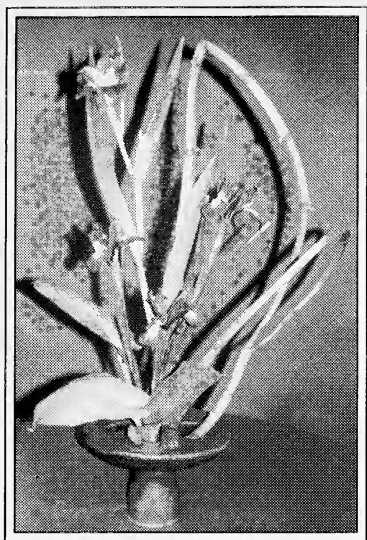
Quoting from *New Dimensions in Floral Design* by Marie S. Miller, "Balance is visual stability and equilibrium. It is the result of placing equal weight on opposite sides of an imaginary central axis." She goes on to describe symmetrical balance (things equal on both sides) and asymmetrical balance which is a balance achieved by "off-center placement or unlike units having equal attraction." This asymmetrical balance can be affected by "heavy" colors, like black items or dark iris, which add weight. Light colors will give light-weight areas so a mix of these two could be strived for to get balance also.

You may think of traditional designs as symmetrical with everything placed in fairly equal amounts in a container.

Asymmetrical placement is almost always the norm for creative designs to achieve the dramatic, exciting and bold emphasis. When using asymmetrical placement remember to counter balance the materials used in one direction by line or flowers with an equal force in the opposite direction.

How to achieve this balance? One suggestion is to create your design in the space in your home similar to the one you will be entering in for a show. In some manner draw an imaginary line vertically through this space. Place your design materials, foliage and flowers, and stand back to see if they fill space equally on either side of the line. Are you doing a traditional design or a creative design? Traditional usually has the equal balance and creative can have equal or asymmetrical. Remember for either type, there can be more in the upper right, for instance, if there is counter balance in the lower left.

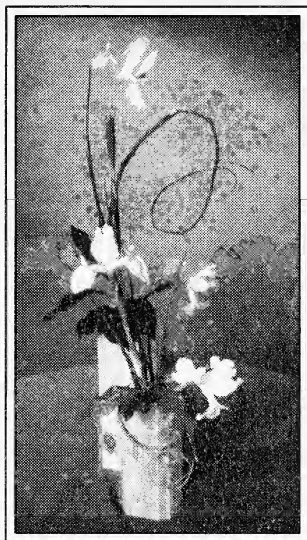
Color balance is the other consideration. Are all of the dark flowers high or are they all low. Balance these colors also to achieve balance.



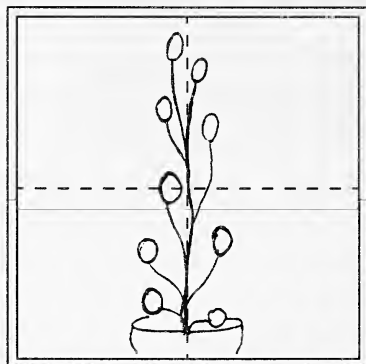
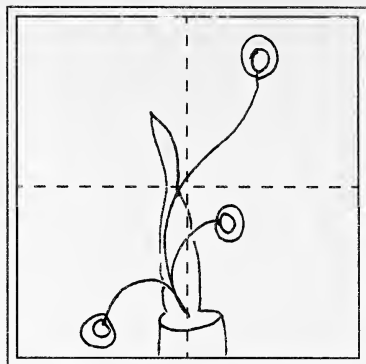
Picture No. 1 (done by Mickie Holton) is a traditional design in a creative container *but* the addition of the bent stems gives it a creative touch and turns the design into a much more interesting design. Notice that the bent stems are all on one side and they are counter balanced by the hosta leaves on the other side.

Picture No. 2 (designer is Mickie Holton) is a traditional symmetrical design with equal placement of flowers and foliage. One balance problem, the light container, was improved by the placement of a fatsia leaf over the container to "soften" it and take away any dominance of a light color.

Now that we have gone through this process, try it on the designs you create for a show, or for your home. The background is very important also to the final product; in fact, I start with the background. If it is busy, what can I possibly put in front of it to not be swallowed up by it? The safest choice is to find a location in your home that is "quiet" and possibly a solid color without a busy pattern. In a show a solid-color wall or background will enhance your design. Many designs are placed in shows on a table, in a row, with no dividers between the designs. Request permission to use a background and some sort of divider. Judges have to block out the designs on either side to see yours, and do any of them really get the attention they deserve after designers have worked so hard to complete them? In a previous article I mentioned ways to make backgrounds or just buy the school display boards at your office supply store (about \$5.00). Possibly the show committee will provide one for everyone to have a



Picture No. 3 (done by Suzanne Doughtie) is a creative design using 4"x 4" posts for risers, iris and a vine-type of material. Foliage is placed at the needlecup to help hide the mechanics. Do you feel this one is in perfect balance? It may be hard to see all of the materials but it tends to all go to one side because the iris are turned in that direction. This is a creative design and remember, special dispensation to balance is allowed somewhat to achieve the desired effect. Just a slight turn to the left of the front block might bring this design into the balance you desire.



Picture No. 4 is a sketch with the imaginary line through it to help balance the design. There can be a horizontal axis also and this can help align the design in the allotted space. There will usually always be more in the bottom half with some materials extending into the upper half which may be thinner, lighter, etc.


unified look—it will add a lot to the show and bring the individual designs into focus. This display board has fold out sides and that will be the “divider” and they can be stored away and used many times.

All of the designs were done for the video, *Iris, The Rainbow Flower*, and are a part of the section on design in the video. It is available from NGS GC (see the ad on page 113) or from Carolyn Hawkins direct. Any questions, please contact me at 7329 Kendel Court, Jonesboro, GA 30236 or let's visit in Dearborn, MI at the AIS National Convention in June. Bring pictures of your designs and maybe I can use them in future articles. 🌸

Rebloomers in Pennsylvania

A Progressive Attitude

by Sterling Innerst



CONCERNING THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE SENT TO ME to answer, some will be very difficult to answer due to the limited experience that I have in this area. There are so many others with much more to offer, I'm sure! I want to take this opportunity to state my admiration for all those who worked this area for many years before I started—it can be thankless at times. I thank you for the gene pool.

I came kicking and screaming into rebloomers when my good friends Joan and Ken Roberts of Region 4 sent me a box of twelve or fifteen rebloomer rhizomes. Included were several that I had grown previously and had thrown out because they did not rebloom in the one or two years I give them in my garden. Little did I surmise that they (in some cases) need to acclimate. I've learned that some do acclimate and perform satisfactorily henceforth, but some never do; at which time I now discard them.

I use only irises that bloom and rebloom regularly in my garden. During the recent years that I've worked in this area, I've learned that several of the concepts on which I depended earlier are not valid. At one time I assumed that the reblooming gene was recessive. It seems to work as if it is recessive sometimes, but most often as if it is not. Also, I once thought that any iris that rebloomed for me here in the harsh surroundings of Pennsylvania would just naturally rebloom easily any place with conditions similar or less harsh than these conditions. *Wrong!* The reverse is also not true. A friend of mine recently paid \$50.00 for a new rebloomer from an area with conditions that are colder with a shorter growing season than ours. The iris was billed as the best ever from this long time hybridizer of rebloomers. The iris is in its fourth season here and has never attempted to rebloom.

One of the questions asked of me is how about color range? (We currently have a lot of whites.) It is said by some that we have good rebloomers in all color ranges now. Maybe someplaces we do, but not here! Two of the most dependable bloomers and rebloomers are BONUS MAMA and I DO—both white. I once thought that these could be used to improve other colors. After many seedlings I have about twenty selected-reselected seedlings that rebloom dependably—all *white*. Several are improvements and will be kept and used. White seems very dominant in this case.

Which breeders are working for me? The most accepting parent here has been ANXIOUS (Hager '92). Seedlings from ANXIOUS have all the good characteristics it possesses but they seem to take on the color of the other parent. These seedlings are reblooming here. ANXIOUS x RENOWN (Zurbrigg '92) has given me a yellow seedling with a blue beard. This seedling has bloomed every May of its life and has rebloomed throughout the summer each year. It has at least one bloomstalk each month after May. When I removed spent, frozen stalks on November 7th, 1996, it had a bloomstalk that had just opened its terminal, a two foot younger stalk, an one foot stalk and a stalk not yet out of the leaves.


The reverse cross gave a beautiful, dark yellow bitone with green influence that has been dependable. All ANXIOUS seedlings have wonderful branching with good bud count. This bitone did not rebloom throughout the summer, but did rebloom as a clump in mid September. This is good, as 95% of rebloomers that do rebloom do so mid to late October. Killing frost arrives here the end of October. Both of these seedlings should help in my attempt to have rebloomers that rebloom earlier and throughout the season.

SUKY (Mahan '91) x MATRIX (Hall '91) presented us with a white trimmed blue plicata that has everything except form. It has given us five weeks for clump bloom during the end of August and beginning of September. This, I hope, will be useful in getting earlier rebloom. I hope to use this with several COLORWATCH (Innerst '87) x PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE (Innerst '92) seedlings, as well as the reverse, and seedlings from AUTUMN TRYST (Weiler '92) x PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE,

AUTUMN TRYST x TENNESSEE GENTLEMAN (Innerst '91), NORTHWARD HO (Zurbrigg '91) x PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE and TENNESSEE GENTLEMAN x NORTHWARD HO. These crosses have all given improvements that rebloom here!

Are there problems with this type of breeding? Yes. Several have been addressed earlier. I will probably be tarred and feathered, but one problem is what appears to be strong linkage between rebloom and ugly. Breeders seem to be reluctant to introduce non-reblooming blood into the rebloom pool, which is not logical. I have had as many rebloomers show up in a Rebloomer x non-rebloomer cross as I have in a rebloomer x rebloomer cross. I think the only way to break this cycle is to recklessly introduce non-rebloomers into the line. One of the most beautifully formed rebloomers that I have is a seedling from AUTUMN CIRCUS (Hager '90) x FANCY WOMAN (Keppel '95). The latter is a non-rebloomer here; the former is a somewhat dependable rebloomer here.

Another problem is that not enough breeders are incorporating reblooming genes into their lines. Until a major portion of the iris breeding population starts inserting rebloom genes into their lines, rebloom will be only a fringe benefit, not a right. This can happen without a decline in the quality of the line, and it would be expanding the possibilities!?!

Are there some plants that the novice should avoid? Yes! However, I do not feel comfortable listing a "do not use" list. I would simply say that those I have mentioned have worked for me! PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE seems to add form. JENNIFER REBECCA (Zurbrigg '85) is sterile, usually, but two crosses gave me fifteen seeds, yielding me two seedlings, one of which is worth it all—a classy, ruffled rose! 



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We hope you will enjoy this beautiful pictorial (with English text)

Approved AIS Judges

for 1997 - Revised

This is a corrected list of Region 20 judges from what appeared in the January, 1997 Bulletin, page 78:

Key:

A: Apprentice RM: Retired Master
G: Garden E: Emeritus
AM: Active Master

Region 20

G Lowell Baumunk III	RM Joseph H. Hoage	AM Thomas L. Magee
G Glenna Chapman	RM Mrs. Morris James	G Suzanne McCarthy
G Duane W. Daily	G Annje C. Jensen	A Ellen McIntosh
G Kayellen R. Daily	RM Dr. Carl Jorgensen	G David G. Miller
AM Mrs. Richard E. Doty	A Helen Kinnamon	G Michael Moller
E Dr. Jack R. Durrance	A John Kinnamon	G Nina Moller
G R.M. Eacker	G Jerilyn Knudtson	G Patricia Morgan
G Mrs. R.M. Eacker	G John Knudston	RM Mrs. Tolbert E. Murphy
A Fran Evers	AM Roy G. Krug	RM Mrs. Dwane Quinn
AM Frank J. Foster	G Barbara Lewis	AM Mrs. L.E. Roberts
AM Catherine Long Gates	E Everett Long	G Robert E. Stetson II
G Dennis B. Gates	A Lynda D. Love	RM E.E. Varnum
	RM Ray D. Loyons	G Verona Wiekhorst

Gary D. Sides (formerly Region 7)

1997 Introductions

OCTOBER SPLENDOR BB, 27" M & Re (Oct.--TN, 9/94--PA)

Ruffled and lightly laced bright pink self. Although pod sterile, it is extremely pollen fertile. Consistently gives seedlings better than itself (TB & BB) with high percentage of rebloom. Good branching with 8-10 buds. Sdlg. C11-F11B: (Christa X (Returning Peace x Vanity)) \$35.00

DOCTOR ALAN TB, 34" M Lightly ruffled creamy pink self.

Candelabra branching consistently producing 7-9 buds. EC '92. Named in honor of Dr. Alan L. Rubinstein's 60th birthday (Middletown, NY). Sdlg. C4-E19B: ((Returning Peace x Vanity) X Lady Friend) \$35.00

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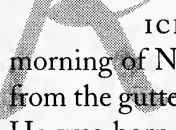
1103 Forest Park Dr.

Auburn, MA 01501

Richard Trich Pettijohn

In Memoriam

by Roger Mazur

 RICHARD TRICH PETTIJOHN DIED EARLY ON THE morning of November 6, 1996 at the age of 73. While cleaning leaves from the gutters on the roof of his house, Dick lost his footing and fell. He was born to Orville Grant and Jessie Irene (Trich) Pettijohn in Elwood, Indiana. While still a young child his father accepted a transfer with U. S. Steel which took the family to Pittsburg, California. Richard graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in Concord, and then continued his education at the University of California at Berkeley. His college years were interrupted by military service in WWII. He enlisted in the Army Air Corp and was stationed in Galveston, Texas and then England. Upon his discharge he returned to Berkeley and graduated in 1948.

He worked for several banks and the Federal Reserve before joining the San Francisco office of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. His work with the FDIC took him all over the western United States. Eventually he transferred to the Seattle office and from there to Portland, Oregon in the mid-sixties. In the seventies he transferred to Omaha where he lived until his death.

Dick's interest in iris and the American Iris Society had been a long time love affair. He especially enjoyed Japanese, Louisiana and median iris. These he shared with all of his friends and relatives. He diligently tested numerous hybrids for their viability in Omaha and will be remembered most for his Maiden Lane, an IB that went on to win an Award of Merit. Dick relished shows. He would enter the judging area carrying his perfect specimens—one at a time—with all the devotion and pride of a father showing off his children.

When Richard arrived in Omaha, he renewed his friendship with Kay Nelson—a relationship that grew over the years. They were in constant contact and even had a standing luncheon reservation every Thursday. Their smiling faces and the sheer enjoyment they had with each other would light up the restaurant. They remained close until Kay married Keith Keppel and moved to California.

Dick's other interest included travel and glass collecting. He would love to drive to AIS conventions so he could stop and spend time visiting

all the friends he made over the years, as well as roaming through all the antique shops along the way, hoping to find another salt shaker to add to his large collection. Each convention or meeting he attended became a month's trip. And these trips extended his already vast knowledge of 19th Century American Glass, with a special focus on salt shakers.

In the last years, he limited his outdoor garden work and spent more and more time with the American Iris Society Foundation. He served as the Secretary/Treasurer of that organization and also was the Foundation Liaison to the AIS Board.

Most members will remember Dick from his presence at the Conventions where he always seemed to be the one enjoying himself the most. ~

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To The American Iris Society

July 17, 1996 – February 16, 1997

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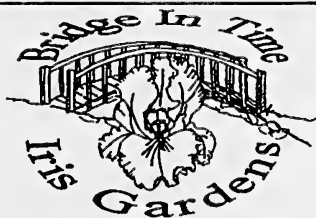
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Payment is due with ad copy. Rates are for camera ready artwork only.
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Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to:

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Spuria Iris as seen in Betty Ford Garden in Sonoma, CA.



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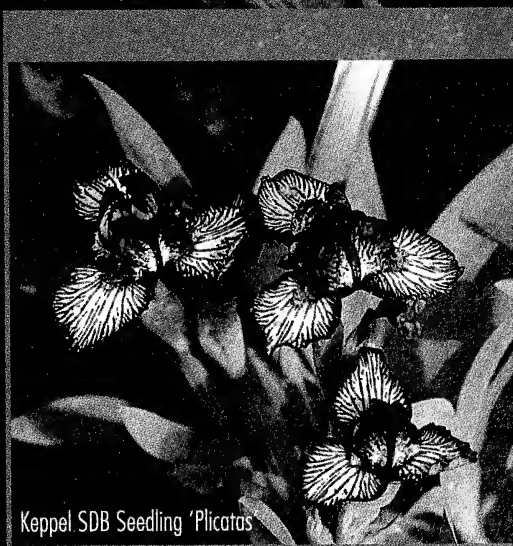
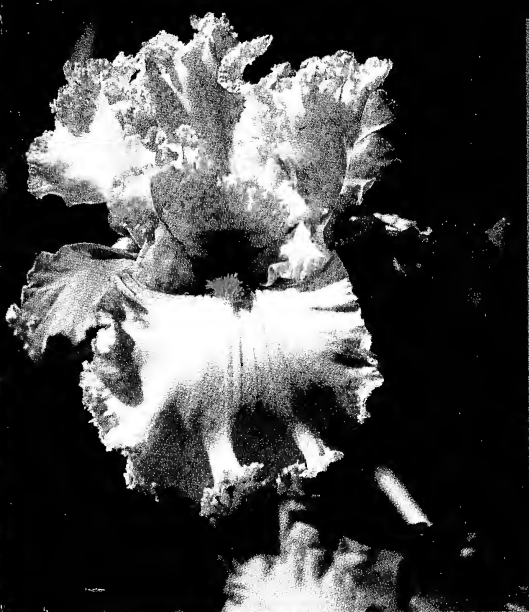
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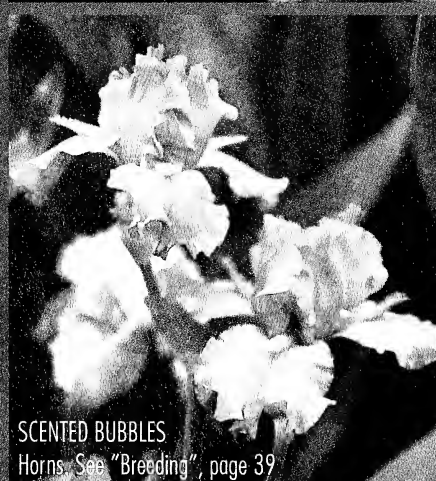
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Rebloomer



JENNIFER REBECCA
See "Bearded Iris Rebloom", page 48



BLOW TORCH
Horns. See "Its Magic", page 36



SCENTED BUBBLES
Horns. See "Breeding", page 39



ROCK STAR. Horns & Rebloom.
See "Plumed Delight", page 42



... of the ... 1997

M E R I C A N

IRIS SOCIETY

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Winterberry Gardens

Winterberry Gardens is happy to announce in 1997 our first introductions of **Landscape Irises**, cultivars developed specifically for private and public plantings for their garden beauty. These irises have been selected after a twelve year hybridizing program for superior disease resistance, vigor, winter hardiness, sturdy stalks, minimal upkeep, good flower quality, and maximum show of color in the landscape. Shown below is a grand clump of Pink Design.

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Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXVIII, No. 3

Series No. 306

July 1997

Editor: Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St., Vancouver WA 98685-3802**Advertising Editor:** Jean Erickson, 4036 Trinity Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-7714**Photo Coordinator:** Robert Plank, 8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656**Scientific Editor:** Adele Lawyer, 4333 Oak Hill Road, Oakland, CA 94605-4523**Layout & Graphic Design:** Scott Aitken, *Flash Graphic Design*,
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The *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* is published quarterly by The American Iris Society. Publishing Office, 8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656. Periodical postage paid at Sun Valley, CA, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price is included in annual membership dues of \$18.00. Annual Subscription rate \$18.00 per year. All copy due in Editor's office by Oct. 15 (Jan.), Jan. 15 (April), April 15 (July), July 15 (October). This *Bulletin* was printed by Parris Printing Co. Copyright © 1997 The American Iris Society.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Bulletin of the American Iris Society,
8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley CA 91352-3656.

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Articles appearing in this publication should be considered the opinions of the authors. Technical articles reporting the results of research will be summarized as news reports, with references made to specialized journals where more complete information can be found.

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 2, 1927, IN the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the *Iris*.

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Species Iris Group	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
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Historic Iris Preservation Society	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00
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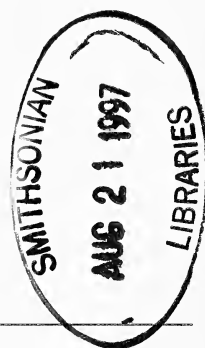
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AIS Bulletin

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President's Message

Looking Forward to Summer

by Dave Niswonger

AS I WRITE THIS LATE IN APRIL, IT APPEARS THAT WE will have a fairly decent iris season this year—at any rate much better than last year. We had some late freezes and the MDBs and early SDBs got some damage, but not enough to completely wipe out the bloom. The IBs, TBs, Siberians, Spurias, Louisianas, Japanese and others should be in spectacular form this year. I hope this turns out to be true. However, the fellowship at our local shows, Regional meetings and the National seems always to make up for losses or missing the peak bloom.




Dave Niswonger, AIS President

At the AIS convention in Sacramento last year a group of interested persons from several different countries met to discuss the organization of a World Iris Association. It was agreed to prepare a position paper and circulate it to National Iris Societies and iris specialists to determine if they would be interested in participating. In order to do this, a committee was appointed and a rough draft has been circulated to committee members including Sergey Loktev of Moscow. Some responses have already been received in this regard. The basic question is "What are the needs that are not being met—or could be better met though such an organization?" In order to explore this more fully, I have asked Mike Lowe to serve as a Webmaster with the idea of establishing a page on the World Wide Web to see what responses might be received. It could be that such a page could meet the immediate need. Some countries have resources that other countries do not have. These resources could include seeds, plants, information

concerning species or hybridization, or simply the sharing of experiences with the growing of the many types of irises. Even though we may think we have advanced pretty far in the development of tall bearded irises, I think most would agree that there is still much more that can be done in their development. There are people around the world who feel they are out of the mainstream of knowledge and plant material already available that could be benefited by such an organization. If this is true, what kind of a structure could function most efficiently to get this done?

Of course the more viable and healthy the AIS is, the more active AIS might be in providing assistance along these lines. The aforementioned items are all a part of the Goals and Purposes of AIS. Many of our affiliates, sections and regions are capable of taking on some of these projects.

Since my last message, we have experienced the deaths of two of our committee chairpersons. Lillian Gristwood had just retired from the Board of Directors and had been replaced as Exhibition Chairman after eight years of service. Evelyn Jones was the Chairman of our Library committee, and contributed many hours in getting our new library established at Silverton, Oregon. (Her duties have been assumed by Keith McNames, who just recently moved to Oregon from Detroit, Michigan.) It is really sad to lose such loyal laborers in the vineyard. Our condolences are extended to Jim Gristwood and Bennett Jones and their families.

Good wishes for a great summer. May you grow the greatest plants ever, and collect those fat seed pods. 

Editor's Message

Ramblings

by Terry Aitken

WELL, THIS MARKS ONE YEAR OF SURVIVAL AS Editor. It has been most interesting! Significant policy changes by the AIS Board have allowed me to report, in color, "newsworthy irises" in a timely fashion. There has not been a single complaint on this issue. There has been a further change in policy regarding color ads in the Bulletin. Premium spaces, like the cover, have been priced more appropriately. More important is the partial-page color ads to encourage more diversity in our advertisers.



Terry Aitken, AIS Bulletin Editor

There have been inequities between the many iris interests and these will be corrected during the course of several more Bulletin issues. The three Section conventions in 1996 provided opportunities to diversify and enhance our many iris interests. 1997 should see a focus on tall bearded, with some supplementary coverage for the Sections and Societies not previously covered. Several writers are at work as we speak. If you have topics that you feel should be expounded upon,

please send suggestions. Many articles have evolved, although perhaps not quickly, from these letters.

Got a letter from a frantic member this past winter. "How do you kill nut grass?" (Nut Sedge). Nut Sedge is not real grass, and that is part of the problem. However, I see several new products on the shelves at garden centers listing nut grass as a target. The good news is a product—new to me—called *Ornamec* which is specific for killing grass, and which does not harm irises. A quart


of concentrate costs approximately \$20.00 and provides enough coverage for at least an acre of ground. It is slow acting, and will take two or three weeks to kill out the grass completely.

Questions to readers:

1. Have you seen any iris that you suspect could be resistant to iris borers?
2. Resistant to diseases?
3. Are there any volunteers who would like to grow (test) and observe "borer resistant" irises?
4. What chemicals are effective against Iris Borers, other than CYGON-IIIE?
5. Do beneficial nematodes work? At what cost?

Other similar projects could be leaf spot resistance, frost resistance, nematode or rot resistance. Feel free to write. This is your Bulletin. Use it.

Finally, on late delivery of the Bulletins, I have been offered condolences by previous editors. The lead time on most issues is six months, and it passes through many hands before it arrives on your doorstep. Specific topics are required to be inserted in specific issues, and delays occur due to timing of spring and fall meetings. Even mail delivery varies by up to three weeks within a single state!

On to bigger and better things. 

Youth Views

Clarke Cosgrove Winners Announced

by Jean E. Morris

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR SEVENTEEN-year-old Erin Marie Griner of Bordentown, New Jersey, winner of this year's *Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award* for Youth Achievement. The accomplishments and attributes of this AIS youth member are remarkable.

Erin grows a beautiful garden of several iris types, including tall bearded, medians, Siberians, Japanese and seedlings. The seedlings are those of the late Franklin Carr and also test seedlings from Schreiner's Gardens. She keeps records on their bloom and growth habits and also has a hybridizing program of her own. The seedlings in her garden have been critiqued as part of a Judges' Training session. Erin shows her seedlings in area shows, and in 1996, won an Exhibition Certificate for one of her tall bearded seedlings.

A talented writer, Erin has contributed to the *Region 19 Newsletter* and to the AIS youth newsletter, *The Iris Fan*. Her outstanding essay was published in the *AIS Bulletin*, as she was the 1993 winner of the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest. She wrote about her favorite iris, PONTIFF (Carr '84).

Erin has attended many local and regional garden tours where she enjoys meeting other irisarians, discussing hybridizing goals and evaluating seedlings and new introductions. She fulfilled her Judges' Training requirements, and was appointed as an Accredited Judge in 1996. She is the youngest in her region to attain this status.

Entering iris shows has always been a regular activity for Erin. She competes successfully with adults and has won many awards, including the Bronze Medal and Best Specimen of Show. She reportedly has an eye for superior specimens and is a meticulous groomer.

Although it is a position usually held by an adult, Erin has served as the Region 19 Youth Chairperson for the past four years.

She has recruited several new AIS youths from the 4-H ranks and gave these new members rhizomes from her own garden. She also provided them with culture instructions and grooming tips. With Erin's encouragement, they are now competing in area iris shows.



Jean E. Morris
Youth Committee Chairperson

Erin has served the Garden State Iris Society in many ways, and her garden was on regional tour in 1995. She somehow finds time to maintain an "A" grade point average in school, while taking honors classes. She also serves as an officer in 4-H, dances in a yearly recital, letters in sports and still devotes many hours to her iris hobby.

The members of Region 19 have recognized that Erin is a reliable worker who shows maturity beyond her years. This past year, they elected her as their Regional Secretary and Membership Chairperson. She will also continue as the Region 19 Youth Chair for which we are grateful, as she has done an excellent job. Erin's nominators describe her as hard working, responsible, friendly, mature and one who has great potential as a hybridizer. Congratulations Erin!

The 1997 First Runner-Up certificate goes to fifteen-year-old Shilo Gillam of Holcomb, Kansas. Shilo is a long-time member of the Garden City Area Iris Club and shows her support by assisting at shows, donating rhizomes to the annual sale, providing refreshments and serving on various committees. She has been responsible for one club program each year for the past six years. Members look forward to her animated, interesting presentations, as she easily holds the attention of an audience. She has developed into a poised speaker because of the many iris demonstrations she has given in 4-H.

Shilo has helped host a fall regional meeting and two spring regional tours. After the tours, she helped dig, trim and mark rhizomes for return to the hybridizers.

At shows, Shilo helps set up, clean up and clerk. She enters many horticulture specimens and also creates beautiful design entries. Almost always, she enters an educational exhibit, as well. She has won many ribbons, rosettes and medals. An educational video, "How to Plant Iris," made by Shilo, has been used as a program by area clubs.

Shilo has moved her garden three times, as her family relocated. She has now expanded the iris varieties she grows to several hundred and is looking forward to bloom on her first seedlings.

Those who nominated Shilo, describe her as energetic, capable, ready to help, a superior leader and one who really loves irises. Congratulations Shilo!

The Second Runner-Up position is shared this year by two outstanding youth members, fifteen-year-old Kay Weathers of Milledgeville, Georgia and sixteen-year-old Jessica Lynn Braeuner of Oak Ridge, Missouri.

Since age six, Kay Weathers has been an active member of the Oconee Valley Iris Club. She grows many iris types and has entered numerous iris shows, competing in the horticulture and artistic design divisions. She travels to several shows each spring and has won many youth awards including Best Specimen and the Silver Medal.

Kay serves her local club at shows, sales, meetings and tours and enjoys seeing new places and meeting others who love irises.

She has been featured in newspaper articles and was chosen for a television interview where she discussed iris culture and tips on the successful showing of irises. She has entered the Ackerman Essay Contest on two occasions. Future goals include hybridizing and signing up as a Student Judge.

Jessica Braeuner grows an extensive garden of many iris cultivars and is active in the Southeastern Missouri Iris Society. She and two other youth members volunteered to bake all of the cookies needed for a recent fall regional meeting—and they delivered.

In 1993, Jessica joined the Judges' Training Program and in 1996, was advanced to Apprentice Judge. She visits many gardens to evaluate seedlings and new introductions. She enjoys regional


tours and has made friends with many other Region 18 youth members. Additionally, she has had an iris Pen Pal for the past several years.

Competing in iris shows is an activity Jessica enjoys, and she has won many youth awards, including the Silver Medal. She has contributed to *The Iris Fan* and has twice won top honors in her age category in the AIS Coloring Contest.

Congratulations Kay and Jessica!

Lucky, indeed, are local iris affiliates with members such as Erin, Shilo, Kay and Jessica. Everyone agrees that active youth members who can shoulder adult responsibilities, increase the energy level in places where the mean age is somewhere above retirement. Adult irisarians who nurture their region's youths are wise, as a small amount of encouragement, some helpful advice, a bit of tolerance and a little trust that allows a youth to take on a club or regional duty formerly held by an adult—all of these gestures will pay off in positive ways for the American Iris Society.

The Clarke Cosgrove Fund

It is possible for affiliates, regions and individual AIS members to add to the Clarke Cosgrove Youth Fund by sending a notation along with their contribution, to the AIS Secretary, Jeanne Clay Plank. The Youth Committee is grateful to the Southern California Iris Society and all who have contributed this past year, as it makes a cash award possible for the 1997 Clarke Cosgrove winner. 

International News

by Clarence Mahan

International Median Iris Robin Comments

RECENTLY THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIAN ROBIN flew into my home, and I thought some of the comments might be of interest to readers of the *Bulletin*. From Lucy Burton in Massachusetts came some interesting views on intermediate bearded irises: "LEMON POP (Lauer '90) was my favorite IB this year... I really like Keppel's CANDY FLOSS ('90) which has peach standards and cream ground falls edged pink... CARRIWITCHED (Innerst '93) is a purple on white plicata



Clarence Mahan

with almost solid colored standards. If you look closely at the standards they are very closely marked with tiny purple dots, but it looks solid from a distance. And it is *vigorous*. Had to divide it this year to keep it from overrunning its neighbors. DARK WATERS (Aitken '92), a blue-violet, had a long bloom season this year, and bitone yellow BLESSED ASSURANCE (Zurbrigg '95) was interesting. It does rebloom farther south..."

From Evelyn Jones in Oregon came this news: "Terry Aitken will introduce one IB for me next year [1997]. It is named COUNTRY DANCE. It is a rosy pink with amber and lilac blends in the standards and a flush of lilac pink on the falls."

From New Zealand, came this interesting idea from Hilmary Catton: "A friend with a very small garden grows Louisianas in big 10 gallon pots with very good potting soil well-laced with cow manure. She has a narrow trench, about 6" deep and just wide enough to hold the pots. They are put in the trench at the

end of winter and kept well watered by flooding the trench every day. They flower very well and once the foliage fills the pots it hangs over and almost hides the pots. Once they finish flowering and start to look untidy she moves the pots out of sight. She repots them every year.”

Lynette Black, also from New Zealand, told the robin that her miniature dwarf bearded iris season began on October 4th with EGRET SNOW (Sindt '85), but that iris performance in 1996 was a bit confused by erratic weather. Wendy Roller in upstate New York said New Yorkers who drove over to Massachusetts for the annual apogon iris auction thought they had “died and gone to heaven.” The New Yorkers bought so many plants that Wendy expects to see some wonderful irises at Region 2 auctions in the next couple of years. Jean Peyrard was pleased to learn that his miniature dwarf bearded iris SOUEICH (R. '91) does well in New Zealand. Commenting on SOUEICH, Jean wrote: “I don't know if it is a true pumila species because it came from British Iris Society seeds, and in a garden a bee cross may always arrive.”

Writing in January, Thelma Naylor, who is so fortunate as to live in Kent, sometimes called “the garden of England,” gave us this report: “Prior to the snow, all the *I. unguicularis* were looking lovely but now are frosted and looking horrible...” But she goes on to comment that “as soon as the snow and frost lifts, they start blooming again.”

Iris Society of Southern Africa

Last year those of us on the Iris-L list on the Internet were joined by Sally Guye in South Africa. It was a pleasure to be able to assist Sally in her desire to join AIS and the Historic Iris Preservation Society. Sally has provided me with some information about the Iris Society of Southern Africa and a copy of its most recent *Bulletin*.

The *Bulletin* contained several interesting articles including a report on the Annual Iris Show held in Johannesburg. This article was written by Eugene Weeks, who was recently elected Chairman of the Iris Society of Southern Africa. Joe Ghio should be quite pleased with the show results because his smooth gold iris GOLD COUNTRY ('87) took top honors. It won Best Iris

on Show, Best Tall Bearded Iris, and Best Gold Tall Bearded Iris. It was shown by Alan Tait, an avid iris enthusiast and authority on South African members of the Iridaceae. Also receiving honors was DURAL CHARM (J. Taylor '83), which won Best Louisiana Iris. Louisiana irises are very popular in South Africa.

Graeme Morgan, whom some of us used to correspond with in an international iris robin (which has since "bitten the dust") wrote an article on plicata tall bearded irises and their history. The *Bulletin* also has an article on books on South African Iridaceae. The article mentions three books by Peter Goldblatt of the Missouri Botanical Garden: *The Moraeas of Southern Africa*, *The Genus Watsonia*, and *The Woody Iridaceae*. This article has a beautiful photograph of *Diets grandiflora*, a lovely species for growing outside in subtropical climates and indoors in harsher climes.

If you are interested in learning more about the Iris Society of Southern Africa, or in overseas membership, write to Secretary, Iris Society of Southern Africa, P. P. Box 2924, Edenvale, 1610 South Africa.

Editors Have Gardens Too

Last year at the International Species Iris Symposium in St. Louis there were many iris enthusiasts from around the world in attendance. One woman I was delighted to get to meet was Gwenda Harris from New Zealand, whom I had only known previously from correspondence and from reading the New Zealand Iris Society *Bulletin* which Gwenda edits. The growth and success of an iris society often owes more to a good editor as to any other person. I am certain that Gwenda's editorship of the *Bulletin* is a major contribution to the New Zealand Iris Society. It is always an interesting journal, and it always brings much pleasure when it arrives in the mail.

A couple of years ago Gwenda moved herself and many plants to new quarters. She owns Otepopo Garden Nursery in Herbert, North Otago. In response to communication from me, she recently described her garden to me. I was fascinated by the description of her garden, and thought I would share it with the readers of this column:

"The garden lies to the sun on the slopes of Mount Charles

(really just a hill) and looks out to the beautiful Kakanui Hills to the south and west to the Southern Alps. It is difficult to characterize the garden. There are a few formal touches, but I suppose it is largely "country/cottagy." I did not establish the garden and as I find it a little busy I will concentrate on establishing some quieter areas when I find the time to impose my stamp on it. There is an old rose garden which I have already edged with irises, lots of bearded species, *Iris pallida* in various forms, *I. florentina*, *I. albicans*, KOCHII, etc., early hybrids like BRIDE, GRACCHUS, and an interesting form of *I. variegata* which I call 'the purple Gracchus.' There are also a few others to extend the season like *I. typhifolia*, *I. kerneriana*, 'Kirigamine,' a few Evansias, and my collection of MTBs. These edge the entrance path to the nursery so I try to keep it looking interesting.

"Elsewhere there are six formal iris beds for spurias, arils, Sibericae species, Siberian cultivars, water-loving iris, and what I call my Panayoti Moraine Mound for bulbs, Junos, etc. The main garden below the cottage (built 1870) has extensive rockeries, a rhododendron collection which I am underplanting with PCIs, a New Zealand corner, a rose bed (modern), a winter border, a summer border, a perennial border and the white garden. The central beds are mostly miniature roses—which are to go.

"This part of the garden is open to the public. Beyond this I have my secret garden which gets even less attention, but there are lots more irises! I have a small sales area known as 'the shop.' Every year I put out an old rose list and an autumn and spring catalogue. Most of the plants, including roses, I propagate myself. I always thought I wanted just a mail-order nursery, but so many interesting people have come into the garden since I have been here I have quite changed my mind.

"There is little time for anything else, although I do try to take my dog to the beach once a week. However, the South Canterbury Iris Group, which I belong to is hosting the Convention next year, and the NZIS celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2000 so there are busy years ahead."

When I think about the fact that Gwenda's nursery is a one-woman operation, I feel ashamed of my own apparent sloth in

comparison. But I know that if I ever get to New Zealand, I definitely want to visit that garden! All those historic and species irises, not to mention MTB's, arils, spurias, PCIs! And how about that 50th Anniversary of the New Zealand Iris Society in the year 2000! I sure hope someone organizes a tour to go there in 2000.

Iris Society of Australia to Celebrate 50th Anniversary in 1998

Mrs. Dianne Dalla Santa recently contacted us with information about the 50th Anniversary of the Iris Society of Australia in 1998. This notable event will be celebrated at the 1998 convention, to be held October 20 – October 27, 1998 in Sunraysia, hosted by the Victorian Region of the Iris Society of Australia.

Dianne Dalla Santa advises that Sunraysia is a geographic area surrounding the "Rural City of Mildura" in northwest Victoria, on the banks of the graceful Murray River. The river provides a source of water for irrigation in this area, which produces large quantities of sultanas, raisins and currents, as well as citrus fruit and wine. This area also attracts large numbers of tourists who visit to enjoy the beautiful river, gardens, national parks, wineries and extensive sports facilities. Plans for the 1998 convention include tours to many local gardens, historic attractions and national parks. There will also be tours to gardens in South Australia and New South Wales.

It is suggested that visitors to the 1998 convention might want to consider entering Australia via Sydney, New South Wales, and departing via Melbourne, Victoria. This will afford visitors the opportunity of attending annual iris shows in each of these two capital cities and visiting renowned hybridizers' gardens. Dianne promises to provide more information on the 1998 convention as details are put into final form. Sounds great, doesn't it?

Another Great Loss in the Balkans

In this column in the last *Bulletin*, we reported on the efforts underway to rebuild the Sarajevo Botanic Garden in Bosnia. Another great loss to the war in the Balkans, that area in which so many iris species are endemic, is the Locrum Botanic Garden

on the Croatian coast near Dubrovnik. The plant collections and library were destroyed, and an effort is now underway to rebuild that institution also. Donations, including appropriate books to replace the library, have been requested. For more information, contact the Director, Sanja Kovanic, Locrum Botanic Garden, PO Box 39, HR-20001, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

British Honours

The Royal Horticultural Society has granted the Award of Garden Merit to a number of Japanese iris cultivars. Those irises receiving this award are FRINGED CLOUD (Craig-Hager '60); HUE AND CRY (Maddocks '70); LASTING PLEASURE (Ackerman '85); MAGIC OPAL (Payne '69); OL'MAN RIVER (McEwen '87); RETURNING TIDE (McEwen '76); SUMMER STORM (Marx '55); THE GREAT MOGUL (Payne '58); VINTAGE FESTIVAL (Payne '69); WORLD'S DELIGHT (Marx '53); and two seedlings bred by T. A. Banco White with the garden names of 'Give-Me-Patience' and 'Mancunian.'

Several of the hybridizers of these irises are now dead. To Ben Hager, Bill Ackerman, Currier McEwen and T. A. Banco White, who fortunately are not, our sincere congratulations!

An Iris Companion Plant (Not!)

It was a struggle to devise a legitimate means of inserting this item the Bulletin. But it had me rolling in laughter, and so it seemed that advice on plants *not* to use as iris companion plants was perhaps appropriate. So, with some trepidation, the following item from the January 1997 issue of *The Garden* is repeated:

"Cambridge residents turned up their noses at roadside plantings of *Santolina* last summer. The warm weather contributed to a little-known feature of these plants as they exuded a smell reminiscent of public lavatories. The local council has now removed the plants."

Arilbred Iris Breeding News from Germany

[The following item, written by Harald Mathes, first appeared in British Iris Society Newsletter, edited by Sue Pierce.]

I have never been commercially interested, regarding my breeding work as a pure hobby. Perhaps for that very reason it has

always been so thrilling to me. As is well known, the Clarence G. White Hybrids arose in the early '50s from crossing TBs and arils (oncos and regelias), and they are with few exceptions the basis of our modern advanced generation hybrids. Although their genetic potential is by no means yet exhausted, I wanted to leave the beaten track. I started with pure regeliabreds; *I. hoogiana* or *I. stolonifera* x TB. Some of these were quite beautiful and much more "gardenable" than the CGWs. They will cross with the CGWs but most of the seedlings were rather ugly and because I like the onco phenotype I soon lost interest in this line. Of late I'm playing with the idea of taking up pure regeliabred breeding again, as a few occasional seedlings look interesting.

In 1983, I pollinated an onco hybrid seedling (*I. iberica* x *I. aurantica*) with pollen from the dwarf bearded *I. mellita*. I germinated the few good embryos on sterile nutrient medium in test tubes and treated them with a colchicine solution. Onco x *mellita* hybrids are sterile at the diploid level and they must be converted to amphidiploid tets to be of any use in further breeding. Only two of the treated seedlings survived. One of them was fertile, its anthers loaded with good pollen. I crossed it with DRESDEN GOLD, a C. G. White type, in both directions and harvested lots of seeds. ANACRUSIS arose from these. Although it got an Honorable Mention for the AIS in 1995, I suppose that most American arilarians have not yet realized what it really is. Due to its *I. mellita* derivation it is of medium height. It is fully fertile and the flower is very onco-like with a large black signal, unlike the customary aril-meds arising from crossing C. G. White types with SDBs.

In 1994, I introduced INVENTION (ANACRUSIS x sib) which is an improvement over ANACRUSIS. A new seedling from this line bloomed in 1995, with a spectacular large and sharp black signal, never seen before. Unfortunately all three [ANACRUSIS, INVENTION and the new seedling] are of the same color. It is a vivid red similar to the color of the TB CAPTAIN GALLANT. Other colors are appearing now among my seedlings—pure yellows and peculiar blends which, together with the black signal, look very exotic.

Still smaller are the arilbred dwarfs from crossing tet oncogelias and *I. pumila*. Both parents are tetraploids, as has been proved, and the offspring should be fertile amphidiploids but in spite of this many have fertility problems. Most of them have fertile pollen but almost all are extremely difficult to pod. Only one of my aril-pum seedlings is pod fertile and I succeeded in getting a few seeds after selfing it. Oddly enough, the resulting seedlings are again very difficult to pod, which is inexplicable. Last year I crossed one of my oncos with *I. pseudopumila*, treating the germinating embryos with colchicine, and I have many healthy looking survivors growing in little pots. Successfully converted seedlings will have the same chromosomal composition as the aril-pums but should be of better fertility. *I. pumila* itself is very cold-hardy and the aril-pums take my winter conditions with ease. I introduced only the variety BARBARELLA in 1991. Some more of my seedlings are worthy of introduction but because of the fertility I am reluctant.

Arilbreds can be back-crossed to diploid oncos or oncogelias. The resulting seedlings are very onco-like but of much easier culture. They have two chromosome sets from arils (AA) plus one from TBs (B). such triploid AAB types are usually entirely sterile. Occasionally a seedling has been produced in the past by using a fully fertile C. G. White type arilbred as pollen parent, but the result was either another C. G. White type (AABB) or another triploid AAB type. In 1991, I treated such triploid embryos with colchicine and in 1995 I bloomed two seedlings which were obviously chimeras, that is they consisted of triploid and hexaploid tissue. I found bloom containing one sterile anther without pollen, one fertile anther which was broader and loaded with good pollen, and one anther which was sterile on one side and fertile on the other. The vice-versa cross resulted in a moderate number of good, firm seeds, which germinated, of course in embryo culture, and these will bloom this spring. Most are vegetatively very strong with many increases. These should be the first hexaploid arilbreds. They have the genomal constitution AAAABB and I expect the flowers to be large, of heavy substance, very onco-like and fertile. This is the big news of 1997. ♪

1997

Official AIS Affiliates

Region 1

Connecticut Iris Society

Rebecca Wong, President
589 North St.
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-1309

Iris Society of Massachusetts

Marty Schafer, President
337 Acton St
Carlisle, MA 01741

Maine Iris Society

Stewart Yorks, President
RR #1, Box 1494
Harrison, ME 04040

Western New England Iris Society

Carol Blais, President
200 Poole St.
Ludlow, MA 01056

Region 2

Empire State Iris Society

Kathleen Guest, President
494 North St.
East Aurora, NY 14052-1446

Region 3

Delaware Valley Iris Society

Charles W. Conklin, Jr., Acting
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91 Duncan Lane
Springfield, PA 19064-1601

Diamond State Iris Society

Mrs. Joan R. Wood, President
975 Ironmine Road
Felton, DE 19943

Susquehanna Iris Society

Jason A. Leader, President
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Region 4

Allegheny Highlands Iris Society

Margaret C. Stone, President
229 Crowfield Circle
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Blue Ridge Iris Society

Dennis Stoneburner, President
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Carolina Mountains Iris Society

Betsy Higgins, President
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Central Virginia Iris Society

Phyllis Soine, President
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Charlotte Iris Society

Carrie Winter, President
5801 Masters Court
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Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society

Virginia R. Spoon, President
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Eastern North Carolina Iris Society

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Eastern Shore Iris Society

John L. Vincent, President
PO Box 166
Oak Hall, VA 23416-0166

Francis Scott Key Iris Society

Mary E. Brown, President
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Fredericksburg Area Iris Society

Leslie Nelson, President
P.O. Box 764
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Portsmouth, Chesapeake & Suffolk Iris Society

Janis L. Bryant, President
3600 Winborne Drive
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Tidewater Iris Society

JaNiece Mull, President
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Virginia Peninsula Iris Society

Betty Worrell, President
172 Skimino Rd.
Williamsburg, VA 23188-2222

Region 5

Dixie Iris Study Club

Billy J. Langston, President
4652 Garland Road
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Bearded Iris Rebloom

and its Causes, part 2

by Donald M. Spoon, Ph.D., Biologist

This is the second half of a two-part article. See the April, 1997 AIS Bulletin, page 48, for the first half. - Editor

Discussion of Iris Plant Physiology:

Bearded irises are short day photoperiod plants that bloom after an extended period of soil warming. They should be called long night plants because it is the long, dark nights that stimulate the blades to produce a substance, still not isolated and of unknown structure called florigen, that induces the stem's (rhizome's) apical meristem (dividing cells) to produce a flower bud. Grafting experiments on other short day plants demonstrate that this florigen migrates slowly from the leaves to the stem. In other plants the actual process of photoperiod control has been shown to include both an internal biological clock and two interchanging forms of the pigment phytochrome.

Rebloomers often begin growth and stalk production at the earliest stages of soil warming and can suffer frost damage if a hard freeze returns. In summer droughts, when spring only bloomers are going dormant and producing abscisic acid to form an abscission layer of cork to detach the rhizome from all larger blades, rebloomers can show lush and continuous growth with firmly attached blades, especially in the continuous rebloomers. At this time, rebloomers respond favorably to watering and fertilizer rather than rotting as do many spring bloomers. Before spring bloomers and rebloomers shed their leaves, abscisic acid causes them to break down the proteins and nucleic acids to conserve their nitrogen, phosphorus, and other minerals that are carried by the phloem vessels to the storage rhizome and roots.

Once bloomer leaves, prior to being abscised, are especially vulnerable to aphid attack which may transfer infections of fungi, bacteria, and viruses. Such infections can spread down to the rhizome and, if unattended, even destroy the entire clump. Some

believe it is a healthy practice with iris leaves to cut them back in late summer using a sterilized knife or scissors. Rebloomers usually don't need this treatment except during the bacterial leaf blight infections that occur in overly wet summers. Cutting back leaves for cosmetic effect might even prevent rebloom, or reduce the number and size of the stalks.

The actions of plant hormones depend on the presence of cell membrane receptor proteins, produced by specific genes. In order for the hormone to illicit its action, it must bind to the proper receptor protein. If a plant were homozygous dominant for production of a hormone yet heterozygous with only one dominant gene (Rrrr) to produce the hormone receptor, this could cause a marked decrease in vigor. Crossing it to a plant homozygous dominant for the receptor protein (RRRR) could restore vigor by tripling the dosage effect (RRRr) in some progeny.

Abscisic acid is a plant growth substance that, through its many effects, serves as a "stress hormone" being especially important in preparing the plant for winter and late summer drought dormancy. It inhibits stem and stalk elongation, and keeps buds dormant in winter. It increases in amount when water becomes scarce, as in late summer drought periods that induce some oncers to go dormant. In the fall, when water is again available, some spring bloomers break dormancy and their fans grow until winter dormancy is induced. Reblooming irises have progressively taller stalks with more branches and bud count from spring to summer to fall possibly due to greater production or response to gibberellin and auxin, the plant growth hormones that together cause elongation of stems and stalks. Sometimes these large stalks have flowers bunched at the top, yet they can also be magnificently balanced candelabras with 15-20 buds, five branches and two spurs as in HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS. Frank Jones had a fall, shrub-like stalk of one of his rebloomers with a record 36 buds!

Cytokinins, such as zeatin, are plant hormones produced in the roots that oppose or delay the senescence of leaves preventing yellowing and loss of nutrients so they stay green and healthy. Also, cytokinins stimulate swelling of stems and roots as well as production of lateral buds. Cytokinins promote cell expansion while

auxin promotes cell elongation. More auxin favors root growth with abundant elongation. More cytokinin favors more new growth of stems and roots budding from the rhizome.

Ethylene, which is produced in all parts of a plant, promotes senescence. As the "senescence hormone," ethylene strongly promotes leaf abscission while auxin delays it, and the balance of the two controls the onset of abscission. Ethylene induces the aging of fruit such as the seed pod of irises, and also inhibits elongation of stems and stalks. Together, cytokinin and ethylene promote lateral swelling of stems.

Discussion of Genetics:

In the discussion below concerning reblooming traits, a recessive trait (a) is a malfunction of a dominant trait (A) for a certain important function, like albinism in animals where the recessive is loss of the production of the dark pigment melanin. (There are also recessive traits that represent the presence of a trait rather than just the absence of the dominant trait. Recessive traits, especially for color, color combinations, and form of flowers, such as lycopène for pink to tangerine color, plicata, and luminata require the homozygous recessive for their expression.) Tetraploid bearded irises have a locus on each of the four homologous chromosomes for each gene with a dominant functional allele (A) or a recessive nonfunctional allele (a). Essentially, the mutated recessive allele codes for a less or non-functional amino acid sequence of a protein, such as a membrane receptor protein or an enzyme that catalyzes one of the chemical reactions to produce a molecule, such as a growth hormone.

For each chromosome of the set of four carrying the recessive allele, there will be a possible $\frac{1}{4}$ reduction in the production of the functional enzyme and its product. The condition can be homozygous dominant (AAAA), heterozygous (AAAa), (AAaa), or (Aaaa), or homozygous recessive (aaaa), which would totally lack the required function and could be lethal. For example, if production of abscisic acid, antibiotic, auxin, cytokinin, ethylene, florigen, or gibberellin (or any one of their membrane receptor proteins) were dominant to non production, then (AAAA) would produce the most, as a dosage effect, (Aaaa) would produce the

least, and (aaaa) with no production could be lethal. Just as tetraploids with four loci for each gene produce plants with larger flowers and pollen grains than diploids with two loci for each gene, then (AAAA) can be twice as strong for the function as (AAaa). If (A) is a factor, that with four doses (AAAA) produces maximum effect thus increasing growth, then (aaaa) the recessive produces none of the required factor. If reduction of a dominant trait by the recessive is what contributes to rebloom, then (Aaaa) could be three times as effective as (AAaa), and (aaaa) could be complete loss of the essential trait and probably lethal.

Through line inbreeding, such as selfing, sibling crosses, and back crosses to the parents, recessive alleles can increase and become homozygous (aaaa) and can be advantageous or lethal. Without such efforts at inbreeding, single recessive alleles caused by mutations might never be revealed. After the third selfing of tetraploid irises, the few seedlings that germinate often rot or just fail to grow. The first and second selfing can yield interesting information about hidden recessive alleles that are not lethal when homozygous and yield unique results.

An example of inbreeding depression in animals is inbreeding to produce white tigers which yields undesirable traits such as crossed eyes. Similarly, selfing irises can yield undesirable traits along with the desired homozygous recessive and dominant traits. In practice, the first selfing of tetraploids can produce some success and is a worthwhile practice with all unique and extraordinary seedlings. Unfortunately, in some treatises on iris breeding, selfing is claimed to be undesirable and is discouraged. Selfing is an effective way to enhance a desired trait such as changing a brick red beard to tangerine. Carefully chosen outbreeding to vigorous classics and historics, and to species, followed by inbreeding can restore wild type dominant genes while retaining the desired homozygous recessives.

Proposed Hypotheses for Cause of Rebloom:

Based on the previous information here is a cluster of testable hypotheses as to why rebloom occurs:

- Rebloomers have the recessive trait of heterozygous (Aaaa) reduction, or even loss as the homozygous recessive, of the

wild type trait of inhibiting growth until after a prolonged period of increasing soil temperatures. Following quick warm-up spells in late winter and early spring, reblooming TBs often bloom with the SDBs.

- ❖ **Probably, the most important and pertinent hypothesis is that rebloomers have inherited the recessive trait of lacking sufficient enzymes to produce the normal levels of abscisic acid or membrane receptor proteins for abscisic acid.** They do not abscise their leaves during summer droughts, yet during fall periods of long nights develop adequate florigen to produce stalks and new stem growths or rhizome increases, so they don't bloom out. Continuous rebloomers have the additional recessive trait of lacking the photoperiod control on long night florigen production and are day neutral. They produce florigen and bloom stalks from early spring to the first hard freeze, and even in winter in warm climates. We could hypothesize an intermediate dosage (AAaa) of dominant production of ethylene that with auxin promotes leaf abscission by abscisic acid, as ethylene also acts with cytokinin to promote stem swelling and budding. It is the substantial amounts of abscisic acid in buds that maintain their winter dormancy. Reduced summer amounts of abscisic acid in nascent buds of rebloomers would allow them to produce summer and fall stalks. Abscisic acid is involved in keeping the seed embryo in dormancy. As abscisic acid breaks down and ceases to antagonize the growth promoters like the gibberellins, cell elongation and germination begins. The 90 day cold period at 42° F (5° C) or lower, required for bearded iris seed germination, is the time needed for abscisic acid levels to slowly decrease.
- ❖ Vernalization is the action of winter cold to stimulate bloom stalk development from the dormant buds in the rhizome. This period of winter cold of several months allows the tiny flower stalk bud to elongate and develop as the stored inhibitor, abscisic acid breaks down and ceases to inhibit the gibberellins. **Rebloomers do not require this vernalization for their new growth to fully develop a bloom stalk and the root system to support it.** Low levels of abscisic acid may, in part, make this possible. (Hybridizers should select for rebloomers that

shut down stalk production at a certain day length so they won't be frozen and wasted, but remain dormant until spring.)

- Possibly rebloomers have inherited the recessive trait of producing less auxin (like Aaaa or AAaa), indoleacetic acid, from the apical bud (old growth) to inhibit lateral bud (new growth) production on the stem (the rhizome is a horizontal storage stem). We can postulate that this could be coupled with the maximum dominant dosage of cytokinin (CCCC) from the roots that stimulates stem swelling and lateral bud or new growth production. Less auxin from the old central fan could mean more and closer lateral new growths on the rhizome. During summer droughts, the lateral growths in rebloomers usually do not cause the apical old growths that did not produce stalks to atrophy and die as occurs in spring bloomers. Often this conserved older growth, rather than new growth, produces a rebloom stalk, as occurs in repeat only rebloomers.
- To resist diseases such as soft rot, rebloomers probably possess dominant traits for producing an abundance of antibiotics effective against *Erwinia carotovora* and other pathogens. Many hybridizers have noted this linkage of rebloom and resistance to soft rot.
- Rebloomers have been observed to have more vigorous root production throughout the year with more branched shallow feeder roots. More importantly, their new growths produce the deep fibrous roots in summer to support the reblooming stalks.
- We could hypothesize that rebloomers have the dominant trait of producing abundant cytokinin (CCCC), the plant hormone that promotes root swelling and lateral branching and sufficient auxin (AAaa) to produce elongation. In red currants there are two complementary genes (A and B) both needed to produce the vitamin pyridoxine which promotes vigorous root growth and elongation. In tetraploid irises the optimum condition for these two complementary genes (AAAA and BBBB) would produce the most pyridoxine and most vigorous root growth. This optimum condition could be produced in a cross with one parent having (AAAA and BBbb) and the other parent (AAaa and BBBB), effectively

doubling the pyridoxine production and root elongation in some of the progeny. This demonstrates a single step of the many stepped process that produces hybrid vigor or heterosis.

- Rebloomers may possess the dominant trait of producing more of the chemicals, like proteins that inhibit water crystal formation, that prevent damage from frost and freezing. Rebloomers often have sturdier blades with a more bluish color caused by a thicker wax coat that protects against chewing and sucking insects that spread pathogens such as leaf spot fungus. This thicker wax coating gives them greater winter hardiness by reducing desiccation. A late winter check for amounts of retained foliage shows rebloomers to excel in this trait. Through rebloomer hybridization we are developing the traits that could eventually produce bearded irises that are evergreen in cold climates. This functional foliage gives them an advantage of more rapid spring growth. (Some might prefer that we develop an improved deciduous habit as found in cold-hardy northern European species like *I. aphylla*.)

Vigor and Bearded Iris Rebloom:

At auctions you often hear, “this rebloomer grows like a weed”. The growth of any plant is ultimately governed by the amount of energy-rich compounds like carbohydrates made possible by the cell’s solar power plants, the chloroplasts. Scientists now accept the hypothesis that chloroplasts are semiautonomous membrane-bound, bacteria-like symbionts (two organisms together) living in the plant’s cells. Chloroplasts contain some of their own independent hereditary material, in a many folded circle of DNA, like the rings of DNA of bacteria. Even in non-green plant cells, chloroplasts are present as tiny colorless proplastids. The newly formed fertilized ovule in the green ovary is colorless and contains proplastids that develop into functional green chloroplasts when the embryo germinates. In irises, unlike Mendel’s sweet peas, all seeds in a seed pod are identical in color and basic morphology, implying that seed coat in irises always comes from the pod parent, a kind of one parent maternal inheritance.

Allen Ensminger’s article in the *AIS Bulletin* (April 1984, # 253, pp. 12-17), tells how he spent three seasons and a thousand seedlings

to confirm that variegated foliage in irises always come from the pod parent. Some of the earliest discoveries of maternal inheritance were found to be carried in the DNA of the chloroplasts rather than DNA in the chromosomes. Purple pigment at the base of the fan has been reported to come from the pod parent. In variegated foliage plants like ZEBRA, strips of cells have areas where possibly the proplastids don't develop into chloroplasts and other strips where they do. Possibly, one could hypothesize that in irises the colorless proplastids and the eventual green chloroplasts come from the pod parent and not the pollen parent. In other words, the pollen lacks proplastids or they are lost in the production and growth of the pollen tube as it carries the fertilizing nuclei to the ovules, analogous to the mammalian sperm losing all its functional mitochondria before fertilizing the egg. (Mitochondria, the energy producing powerhouses of the cells, also have bacteria-like rings of DNA, and their genes could also contribute to vigor.) This would mean that the pod parent, by contributing the seedlings' chloroplasts, would contribute some of its vigorous growth habits. However, there are genes in the iris cell's chromosomes that influence photosynthesis, so the vigor could also come from the pollen parent and follow standard Mendelian inheritance. From my experience of making reverse crosses using each cultivar as both pod and pollen parent, I have learned that more vigorous seedlings are produced if the pod parent is the vigorous parent in a cross where one parent lacks vigor.

A good indication that a spring bloomer may be a carrier of rebloom is to look for vigorous, lush foliage, especially in late fall and early spring. At my Georgetown University Heyden Gardens I had limited space for seedlings. I let the most vigorous seedlings of a cross push out the others. Three of these selected vigorous seedlings (SON OF DREAMS, LORA KATHLEEN, and a MY JODIE sibling) with virtually no rebloom ancestry, have been found to be good rebloom carriers. I have crossed cultivars that have reblooming tendency in zones 8 or 9, or are rebloom carriers, and produced reliable rebloomers for zones 6 and 7. Some of the best modern form reblooming irises with reliable cold climate rebloom have been developed from crossing these zone 8 and 9 reblooming tendency irises like VANITY and rebloom carriers to our most

reliable cold climate rebloomers. Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg (1991 *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*, volume 39, pages 5-9) and others have determined that if the zone 8 and 9 warm climate rebloomers contain too much of the genetic material of *I. mesopotamica* in their lineage, then the progeny of such crosses, though modern in form, are rarely good cold climate rebloomers. This is because *I. mesopotamica* in its Fertile Crescent homeland estivates in the hot, dry summer and grows in the winter. Usually, such warm climate rebloomers are suitable only for west coast climate zones 8 and 9. This effect seems to diminish as the influence of *I. mesopotamica* is reduced. A search of the pedigrees of the best modern form, reliable cold climate rebloomers shows that many of them have some *I. mesopotamica* contributing to their assortment of genes. There is great value in rebloomers suitable for one region like many of those of Tom Craig, Jim Gibson, and G. Percy Brown. However, it is the goal of AIS to place its highest awards on irises that have beautiful modern form and perform well all across our nation.

Strategies for Obtaining Quality Bearded Iris Rebloomers:

A good strategy for improving reblooming irises is to continue crossing the best cold climate rebloomers with modern form on exceptional spring bloomers, rebloom carriers, those with reblooming tendency, and even warm climate rebloomers. Then cross the most vigorous of the progeny back on the cold climate rebloomers. In this way, you can maintain the rebloom traits yet enhance a desired line bred trait, such as homozygous recessive pink lycopene production. It takes at least two generations to reach your goal, so don't give up when the F1 hybrids look a little like cocker spaniels. Resist the admonitions of well intentioned friends to compost those ugly canines, for they carry the hidden genes that you can bring out in future generations. Just choose a couple with the best overall traits, especially vigor, to sibling cross or back cross on the reblooming parent, and self the very best. (My cross of IMMORTALITYX its sibling "Chaste White" produced all Border Bearded RE-6s with nice substance, white, and fully flared. If desired, I can restore their TB height with another cross.) Stick to your guns and your goals, and enjoy the fun of hybridizing. And

remember, there will never be a cultivar that can't be improved or a spring bloomer color, color combination, or flower form that can't be bred to rebloom. Iris hybridizers always have new seedlings to look forward to with anticipation.

Monty Byers championed the trial and error approach to discover new and better modern form rebloom carriers or those with reblooming tendency and then crossed them on cold climate rebloomers. (My own experience is that it takes about 20 spring bloomer trial crosses on cold climate rebloomers to discover one new rebloom carrier.) In a relatively short time he made amazing progress in producing modern form reblooming irises, including reblooming space agers. Although he hybridized in the warm climate of zone 8, many of his rebloomers are good cold climate rebloomers to zones 5 and 6 and show impressive vigor. It would be valuable to hybridizers if his key breeding stock for improved rebloomers such as B-8-2 (CEASE FIRE X SKY HOOKS) could be introduced, in the same way that Ben Hager advanced our cause by making available his great parent, BONUS MAMA.

Summary and Encouragement:

It is proposed, as did Dr. Kenneth Kidd in *The World of Irises*, that **rebloom is not a single dominant or recessive trait at one gene locus but is a complex polygenetic system of many recessive and dominant traits governed by many genes coming together in each cultivar to create its unique rebloom characteristics.** It is this combination of traits that makes rebloomers such great garden and show irises. Undoubtedly, the genetic basis for rebloom will be more complex than hypothesized here. Rebloom is definitely supported by hybrid vigor (heterosis) that can be produced by crossing inbred lines to increase the overall number of dominant functional genes, and reduce the number of undesirable homozygous recessives. The polygenic trait of overall vigor is undoubtedly supportive of rebloom in all its forms. An alternative hypothesis, not necessarily opposed to Dr. Kidd's views, has been proposed by Clarence Mahan. This hypothesis asserts that heterosis is the actual cause of rebloom. Hopefully, scientific testing of these hypotheses will be undertaken, and some day we will understand the origin of rebloom.


Unfortunately, crossing two rebloomers doesn't insure that any of the resulting seedlings will be rebloomers. This suggests that crossing certain reblooming parents can reciprocally cancel the traits in their progeny that allowed them to rebloom. (Based on the hypotheses presented, one rebloom parent could have the recessive trait of low dosage levels of abscisic acid production, yet have the dominant trait of producing abundant abscisic acid membrane acceptor protein, while the other rebloom parent had abundant abscisic acid production yet a recessive level of its acceptor protein. When crossed, all F₁ progeny would lack reliable rebloom but could still have the rebloom tendency, or be carriers of the complex of rebloom traits.) The chance for modern flower form being obtained from two reblooming parents with historic form is minimal. Some crosses can produce up to 90% rebloomers, with each seedling showing noticeable differences in rebloom characteristics. Usually, a carefully planned cross to produce rebloom will generally yield one rebloomer in forty, as would be expected when crossing tetraploid irises with recessive and dominant alleles on many different genes that determine rebloom traits. The hybridizer needs three bloom seasons in order to assess the majority of the seedlings that will rebloom. Some of the very best rebloomers, like IMMORTALITY, must be well established before they rebloom. Also, don't be timid about intercrossing the various bearded iris classes including species, historics and classics. (The seedlings will have a wide range of heights, blooming times, and reblooming traits.) It is valuable to know when crossing different classes of irises that pollen stored in a dry, cool place can be viable for up to 6 weeks and if frozen, remain viable for up to a year.

Occasionally, you might try crossing select tetraploid to diploid irises. It is better to have the pod parent be the diploid, and the pollen parent the tetraploid to take advantage of the more frequent failure of meiosis in the pod parent to produce an unreduced diploid egg nucleus rather than the usual haploid. To increase the chance for success, repeat the cross many times. Although such crosses may produce sterile plants, they still may be worthy of introduction. Of course, the chromosome number differences may also yield sterile cultivars. It would benefit hybridizers if registrations and

introductions clearly stated if a cultivar were sterile, as well as just pod or pollen fertile.

Some beautiful cultivars that have limited fertility, such as JENNIFER REBECCA, present a special challenge. It took scores of crosses using its pollen to produce several seedpods, yet the seedlings made the effort worthwhile. My principle goal has always been to produce a reblooming pink iris that would gain wide acceptance as a landscape iris. My BB PEACH PARASOL RE-6 (BB FAUX PAS RE t-8 X MTB OZARK EVENING RE-6) approaches this goal, as does my DIAMOND BLUSH RE-6 (sibling of MY JODIE RE c X PINK ATTRACTION RE-5), best seedling at the 1996 fall C&P show, a diamond dusted, ruffled, fully flared, orient pink and salmon blend with nasturtium red beards, darker venation and blush on the falls. I especially like its trait of retaining green spathes. Having obtained a continuous rebloomer that is pink and peach with tangerine beards from IMMORTALITY X the pink spring bloomer ENCHANTED WORLD suggests, as one explanation, that IMMORTALITY carries two recessive alleles for lycopen.

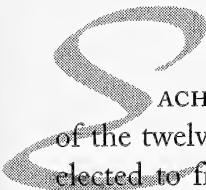
There are abundant improvements to be made with reblooming irises, and hopefully, more hybridizers will concentrate their efforts on this rewarding endeavor. A good prediction of progress in rebloom was offered by Dr. D. Charles Nearpass: "Remontancy requires outstanding plant vigor and near-optimum cultural conditions. However, I believe that in 10 to 20 years, more, and perhaps most, of the new introductions will be plants that, given the right culture, can be counted on to rebloom." Rebloom progress is where you find it, and be prepared to be surprised.

This article was greatly assisted by the valuable review and comments of Rosalie Figge, Mike Lowe, Clarence Mahan, Dr. D. Charles Nearpass, Dr. Raymond Smith, Ginny Spoon, Jean Witt, and Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg. We are deeply indebted to Howard Brookins for serving as editor and compiler of the 1991 Cumulative Check List of Reblooming Irises that describes 1,902 rebloomers. The 1997 edition is being prepared by Joan and Ken Roberts. 

Annual

Presidential Letter

by Dave Niswonger

 EACH YEAR THE TERMS OF OFFICE EXPIRE FOR ONE THIRD of the twelve directors of the American Iris Society, and four are elected to fill those positions. As provided in the AIS bylaws, a five-member Personnel Committee recommends to the AIS Board of Directors a selection of candidates for nomination as directors. From this list the incumbent Board of Directors chooses by written ballot the slate of four candidates to be presented to the membership.

The Personnel Committee consists of five members selected to serve each year from their parent body: two directors selected by the Board of Directors, two RVPs selected by the Board of Counselors, and one section representative selected by the Section Advisory Board.

Approved during the 1997 spring meeting held in Dearborn, Michigan, in accordance with the AIS bylaws, the following four individuals are the 1997 nominees for regular three year terms expiring in the fall of the year 2000:

Dr. E. Roy Epperson,	Paul Gossett,
Jean Morris,	Maxine Perkins

The bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before September 1, 1997. Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before October 1, 1997, to all AIS members and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before November 1, 1997. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected.

- O. David Niswonger, President

Award Winners

1997 AIS National Convention

Franklin Cook Cup

Winner:	VAVOOM (Ensminger), SDB	69 votes
1st Runner-up:	FANCY WOMAN (Keppel), TB	44 votes
2nd Runner-up:	STEFFIE (Fisher), MTB	25 votes
3rd Runner-up:	MAUI MOONLIGHT (Aitken), IB	18 votes
4th Runner-up:	ALADDIN'S FLAME (Messick), SDB	17 votes

President's Cup

Winner:	BANGLES (L.Miller), MTB	118 votes
1st Runner-up:	MAGIC BUBBLES (Willott), IB	56 votes
2nd Runner-up:	WRANGLER (Stahly), IB	33 votes
3rd Runner-up:	BALTIC STAR (Stahly), TB	31 votes
4th Runner-up:	FESTIVE GLOW (Willott), MTB	15 votes

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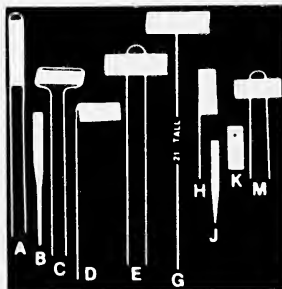
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Hybridizer's Medal

1996 Recipients

AN AWARDS COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF PAST recipients and headed by the past president, is in place to review candidates for the Hybridizer's Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Gold Medal and the "Most Overlooked" Iris award. Nominations and endorsement letters (five are required for consideration) are sent to the committee. A list of candidates is compiled and the committee votes for a short list which is then presented at the AIS fall board meeting. The Board may also add candidates if five board members will act as sponsors. Finally, the combined list is voted on by the full board in closed session

Terry Aitken

Terry Aitken was born and grew up in central Canada (Winnipeg, Manitoba), moving to the U.S. in the early sixties. His first exposure to iris breeding occurred in Minneapolis while visiting the garden of Mrs. Bakke-Messer. It made an indelible impression. This impression was further enhanced and cultivated after his move to the Pacific Northwest in 1974, where he became acquainted with Bennett Jones, George Shoop and Gus Schreiner.

The die was cast in 1976 when the first tall bearded seedling crop bloomed. Later, the AIS 1980 convention in Oklahoma convinced Terry that there was much work to be done in the Median iris classes. Now, with the "what if" curiosity firmly entrenched, the tweezers sought broader horizons, with the far reaching focus on "everblooming iris fields". Japanese iris seedlings later joined the ranks in the seedling field.

Terry's efforts have been rewarded through the AIS awards system and have culminated in his receiving two Caparne-Welch medals, two Jacob Sass medals and the W. A. Payne medal, in addition to many Awards of Merit for his various irises.

Terry and his wife Barbara were married in Winnipeg, Canada in 1959. They have two adult sons and a grandson, all living in the Seattle area.

Barry Francis Blyth

- See photos at centerfold pages.

Barry Blyth was born and raised in Melbourne, Australia, and received his Diploma of Horticulture from Burnley Horticultural College. In 1961 he went to England and spent two years working in nurseries there (John Waterer Son & Crisp, and Hilliers at Winchester). He returned to Australia and went into partnership with his parents growing irises, lupins and dahlias. (His family also had a perennial and alpine nursery in England, Prichards at Mudeford in Christchurch, where they grew many irises, particularly Siberians. It closed in 1966.) His maternal grandfather, Russell Prichard, came to Australia prior to World War I and began an alpine and perennial nursery. His parents began their own nursery in 1939, so Barry is the fourth generation in the nursery business.

He married Lesley, whom he met in England in 1965, and they have three children, Paul, Timothy and Heidi. Upon his parent's retirement, he and Lesley continued the iris business, calling it Tempo Two. They moved to their present location eleven years ago. He and Lesley are divorced, but are still business partners and good friends, and make their full time living from growing and selling irises.

Barry began crossing irises as a child of seven or eight, and started his present intensive breeding program in 1963 on his return from England. His main goal was to raise a pink ameona, and after over thirty years it has not appeared. He cannot complain though, with all the lovely colors and combinations that have appeared in his search for the elusive Pink Amoena. On the average, he flowers five thousand seedlings per year, though some years it has gone to fifteen thousand. This usually consists of a thousand Dwarfs and Medians and the rest TBs, with a few hundred Spurias every other year. Their family would have registered over four hundred varieties of irises over the past forty years. All of their children have made many iris crosses. Lesley also makes a few crosses most years, though she is more interested in the Hosta collection they are getting together.

Barry is probably the most well-known of our "international"

hybridizers to AIS members. He has been sending his irises to AIS conventions since the early seventies, and his CABARET ROYALE garnered a lot of attention at the 1977 convention in Memphis. In 1986 he was awarded the Australian Dykes Medal for his tall bearded SOSTENIQUE. He has also won a number of international awards, at the Vienna median competition, the Munich IGA and at Florence he has gotten various awards, as high as the Silver Medal (second place). From the AIS he has won Awards of Merit for his TBs GALLANT ROGUE and TOMORROW'S CHILD and HMs for IN TOWN and WITCH'S WAND.

The three Blyth children have taken over the wholesale side of the business, purchasing ten acres next door to Tempo Two, and they are called Tempo Three. So the fifth generation carries on.

Carl H. Boswell

How did Carl get started in irises? He and his wife LaRue bought a new home and started looking for a way to landscape it.



They saw an ad in the newspaper for some seedling irises, 12 for \$2.50. They bought twelve plants from Ernie LaFrenz (who was a friend of Mitchell, Salback, Mohr and C.G. White). The following year LaRue had major surgery. He wanted to do something special for her. He went to Ernie's and they dug fifteen named varieties of irises in bloom, planted them in cans and decorated the cans. He lined LaRue's hospital room with

blooming irises. The following year, 1953, they bought \$25.00 worth of named irises, and that was their start.

While out driving, they saw a garden with many irises, stopped to look and talk with the owner. Then his sister, told them of other people close by who also grew irises and were starting an iris society. Next January, 1960, the Mount Diablo Iris Society

was organized. From the society meetings they found out about other types of irises and started growing them. Since they had a small yard, they started buying MDBs, SDBs and Arils/ABs.

Then Carl started hybridizing. When work got to him, he could come home and start hybridizing. Pretty soon tensions would drain away and he would just relax. It was amazing therapy.

Carl feels blessed that some of his "babies" have been well liked. PUPPET BABY (MDB, 1992) won the Caparne-Welch Medal, and SMOKE WITH WINE, JEWEL OF OMAR, and OMAR'S TORCH won the William Mohr Medal. GREEN EYED SHEBA won the William Mohr Award. He and LaRue were awarded the Region 14 Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995.

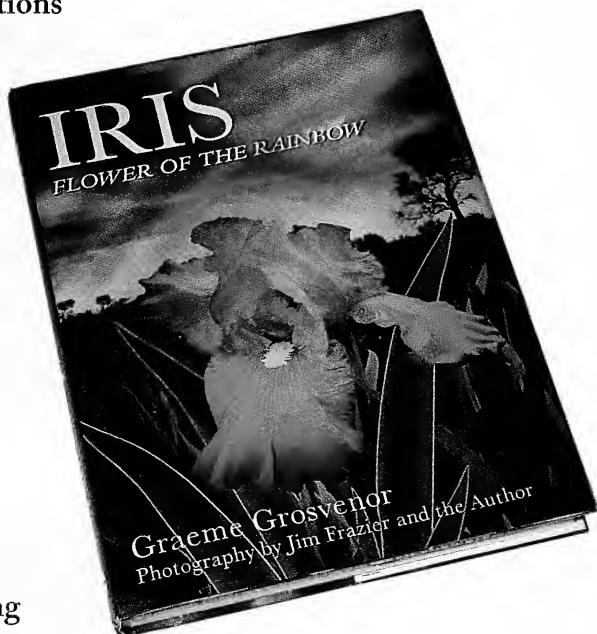
By going to AIS conventions and regional meetings they have met many great people and made many friends. He would not change his years in irises. But Carl says, "In what I am or have done, I could not have done it without LaRue; she is not only my wife, but my good friend and partner in everything we do". 🌹

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News from Down Under

(Australia)



Photo by Graeme Grosvenor

STELLA PALISSOT (Taylor '94), LA, Australian Iris Society Medal for Best Beardless Iris



Photo by Graeme Grosvenor

LUCY PAYENS (Taylor '93), winner of Sidney Lousiana Iris Spectacular



Photo by Jim Frazier

AZURE ANGEL (Grosvenor '94), Australian Iris Society Medal for Best Bearded Iris, House in background.



Photo, Terry Aitken

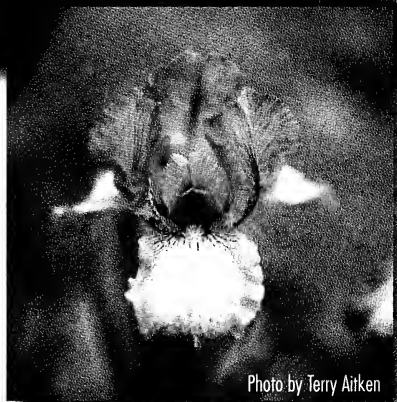
WITCHES WAND (Bly '88)



Winner of Australian Iris Society
Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera

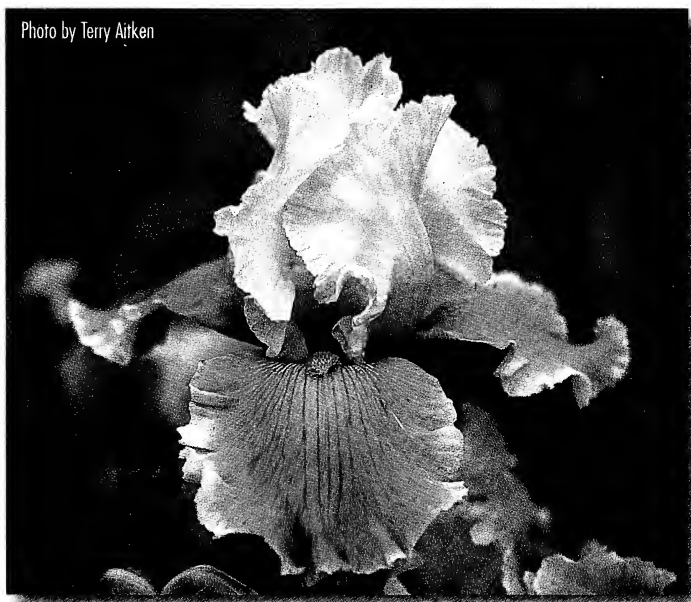


Barry Blyth, recipient of
AIS Hybridizers Medal



YIPPEE (Blyth '87)
SDB

Photo by Terry Aitken



ENGLISH CHARM (Blyth '89), reblooms in August

News from 'Down Under

(Australia)



Photo by Graeme Grosvenor

STELLA PALISSOT (Taylor '94), LA, Australian Iris Society Medal for Best Beardless Iris



Photo by Jim Frozier

AZURE ANGEL (Grosvenor '94), winner of Australian Iris Society Medal for Best Bearded Iris. Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House in background.



Barry Blyth, recipient of AIS Hybridizers Medal



Photo by Terry Aitken

YIPPEE (Blyth '87)
SDB



Photo by Graeme Grosvenor

LUCY PAYENS (Taylor '93), winner of Sidney Louisiana Iris Spectacular



Photo: Terry Aitken

WITCHES WAND (Blyth '31)



Photo by Terry Aitken

ENGLISH CHARM (Blyth '89), reblooms in August



SUKY (Mahan '91), rebloomer.



EGRET SNOW (D. Sindt '85), AM '91,
See International News, pg 15



AUTUMN CIRCUS (Hager '90), rebloomer.

Distinguished Service Medal

1996

Claire Barr

CLAIRE BARR FIRST BECAME INTERESTED IN IRISES WHILE living in Maryland in the 1960s. Her late husband, Bill, became a charter member of the Francis Scott Key Chapter of Region 4 in 1967 and asked her to join The American Iris Society with him so they could share this hobby. Both were active in the local society and in Region 4; both became accredited judges and later master judges.



For Region 4, Claire served as recording secretary, assistant RVP (at which time she began attending AIS Board meetings) and Regional Vice President. During this time she was selected by the AIS Board of Directors to serve as coordinator for the AIS plantings to be incorporated into an American Horticultural Society project at that organization's headquarters at River Farm on the banks of the Potomac

near Mount Vernon, Virginia. Claire and Bill represented The American Iris Society at a gala reception at River Farm celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the American Horticultural Society.

In June, 1983, Claire became recording secretary for the AIS Board of Directors and served in that capacity until June, 1992, when she was named President-elect of the AIS. During that period she served as a member of the Board of Directors, as Policy Chairman for the Board, and as Display Garden Chairman for The Society for Japanese Irises. Claire served as President of The American Iris Society for a three year term, 1992 - 1995.

A Kentuckian by birth, Claire had grown up in Bowling Green and had graduated from what is now Western Kentucky University. Claire and Bill were married in 1942, during World War II, and

spent a year in Santa Barbara, California, before Bill left for combat in the European Theatre. After the war they lived in Kentucky for several years and then spent thirty one years in Maryland, where their daughter and two sons grew up. In 1985, they returned to California to live, this time in San Diego, where Claire still resides, in Region 15. In 1988, Claire and Bill had the pleasure of serving as judges at the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy.

- Editor's Note: Claire Barr has recently moved to a retirement community. Her friends can reach her at the following address:

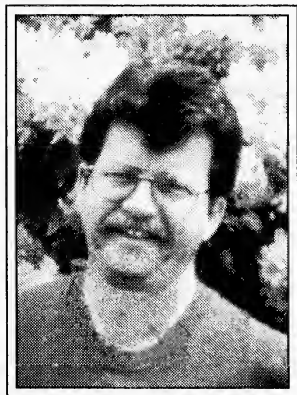
16916 Hierba Drive, Apt #235

San Diego, CA 92128

Phone (619) 451-6333

Phil Williams

Soon after fourteen year old Phil Williams paid adult dues to become a member of The American Iris Society, he became the editor of the Region 7 News. Since then, he has continued to promote irises by holding many positions in local clubs and in Region 7. He was one of the founders of the Mid State Iris Association.

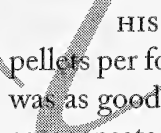


Phil's Rocky Top Garden contains one of the largest selections of irises in Tennessee. He tries to add the latest from both famous and unknown hybridizers each year, so that judges in the area can evaluate the work of everyone. He stresses garden visits in all of the many judges training schools he gives across the country.

On the national level, Phil served nine years as a member of the Board of Directors of the AIS. He was second vice president and managing editor of the *Bulletin*. In addition to serving on many committees, he served as guest editor of the *Bulletin* and as the editor-in-chief of the *Judges' Handbook*. Most recently he has been a leader in the formation of the Tall Bearded Iris Society, which may become a cooperating society of The American Iris Society. ❧

Alfalfa

Again

 HIS PAST WINTER, WE SPREAD FIFTY POUNDS OF ALFALFA pellets per four hundred square feet, and we don't think the growth was as good as the previous year when we used eighty pounds. To compensate, we have applied a top dressing this spring which, when watered in, should take effect with the new root growth that follows bloom.

There is a down side to the uses of alfalfa pellets. The bags sometimes include weed seed or other grain seeds. Be prepared to deal with new plant pests.

- Terry Aitken, Vancouver, WA

Beware of Alfalfa Hay for Mulch

I decided to try mulching a few Siberian irises with Alfalfa Hay. Fortunately I inspected the irises immediately after the snow and ice disappeared. The hay had begun to rot and was a black, slimy mess. We removed it immediately and replaced it with left-over oat straw. Because the irises were still dormant, no damage was done.

Later we spread it out to dry, so it could be ground for walkway mulch. Instead of grinding beautifully like straw, it twisted around the cutter wheel like heavy twine.

So, when mulching our newly planted Siberians, we will use pine needles until our supply is depleted, then finish with oat straw.

P.S. The alfalfa pellets or meal are used on everything in my garden.

- Shirley Pope, Gorham, ME

Something New - TRIA

*[Reprint from Aril Society International, 1992 Bulletin,
with permission of the author. - Editor]*

Several years ago I listened to a gardening program in which a noted retired professor of the University of California, Dr. Stoutemyer, was guest. He told about a new growth enhancer that growers of orchids were using in the flower industry to obtain better flowers. The name of the substance is Tricontanol or TRIA for

short, and that is the name I will use hereafter. Scientists isolated and named the substance back in the 1930's, and until recent years, it was neglected. Research data on TRIA shows favorable results on a wide spectrum of plant material including tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, sweetcorn, besides cymbidium orchids.

Many plants produce TRIA in their tissues; alfalfa, ryegrass, wheat, and rice are the main ones, and some of it can also be found in beeswax. One of the favorite farming practices to bring a field or garden plot to prime fertility is to grow ryegrass or similar crop and later disc or plow it under. It is very likely we have been benefiting from TRIA all along, though giving credit for exceptional results to just humus and nutrient additions.

A pure chemical form of TRIA can be purchased, but the good Doctor suggested using CHOPPED alfalfa hay itself [*see warning above*]. A good handy way if you have a small area is to use rabbit food pellets, which is just ground-up compressed alfalfa. A lady in one of our local iris societies brings well grown irises to flower shows year after year—she claims all they are fed is rabbit manure. This brings into the picture the diet of rabbits, and to a lesser extent, of most farm animals—alfalfa and grain hays. In probability, there is another source of TRIA in various animal manures.

Local feed stores often have broken or moldy bales of hay that cannot be sold. This material can be composted further, and used later at planting time, or can be used as a *very light* top dressing around the plants, especially in the fall. As a side note, here in California, mulching around irises spells disaster; however, this is not true everywhere. It is important to experiment on small areas before going all out and losing as the result.

- John Wight, West Covina, CA

Terry Aitken again... Triacontinal is listed as a "growth regulator" in my SIGMA catalog (orchid flasking supplies). I suspect that the pure chemical would not bring to the soil the same benefits that it does in compost form. Compost is a corrective substance for either heavy clay or sandy loam soils. Compost encourages a population of soil organisms, including earthworms, which are considered beneficial to good plant growth. ♪

Colchicine

and the Iris

by Sam Norris

TESTS RUN DURING THE WINTER OF 1996 GAVE STRONG indications that the number of diploid iris seedlings that could be converted to tetraploid by treating them with colchicine could be greatly increased, in some instances approaching a 50% conversion. This was accomplished by ignoring the conventional wisdom and the accepted treatment and taking an entirely different approach. Although it will be several years before the final results can be confirmed, the initial results looked promising enough that I decided to write it up in case others could make use of this new method.

During the summer and fall of 1995 a great deal of thought was devoted to determining a better method for producing the tetraploids, brought on in large part by my poor results in producing tetraploid Louisiana iris. There are many variables involved in the use of colchicine, some of which are listed below.

Variables that are under our control:

- A. Strength of colchicine solution.
- B. Length of time seedlings are in the solution.
- C. Length of time in water soak following colchicine treatment.
- D. Temperature during colchicine treatment and/or water soak.
- E. Size of seedlings when they are given the colchicine treatment.

Variables that are not under our control.

- A. Variation in the response exhibited by different seedlings.
- B. The rate the colchicine penetrates the seedlings.
- C. The rate the colchicine leaches from the seedling during the water soak.

D. The time required for the cells to divide.

A review of material covering the action of colchicine as well as how the cells divide and multiply has led me to the conclusion that the current method of treating the freshly germinated iris seedlings, while capable of producing a very few tetraploids, will never give entirely satisfactory results. The results of my own colchicine treatment of the seedlings tend to confirm this. All that brute force treatment, the use of stronger and stronger solutions of colchicine, has accomplished is the killing of more seedlings without increasing the number that are converted to tetraploid.

Under the best of conditions the number of seedlings converted to tetraploid using the accepted treatment is very small, and usually show up as either sectorial or periclinal chimeras, or a combination of the two. All of the cells in the iris plants originate from a small number of cells in the apical meristem, known as the apical initials. The types and number of chimeras indicate: A) The apical initials divide at a much slower rate than the cells that are derived from them; and B) The division of these cells are apparently at random rather than being synchronized.

The statement is made in the book *Plant Anatomy* by A. Fahn that in all or most plants there exist a gradient in the rate of division and growth from a minimum at the summit of the apex to a maximum in the region of leaf initiation. This seems to hold true for the iris as the majority of the seedlings treated with colchicine will give indications that the leaves are tetraploid, but after the leaves that are already initiated when the colchicine is applied complete their growth, the new leaves that put out will in most cases show up as diploid.

In order for cells to be converted from diploid to tetraploid the colchicine must be present in the cells when they are dividing. Evidently the 12 hour soak in the colchicine that is usually used when seedlings are being treated does not maintain the solution in the apical initials at a sufficiently high strength to cause them to become tetraploid when they do divide. If the seedlings are held in the colchicine solution for a long enough period of time for all of the apical cells to undergo a colchicine mitosis and become tetraploid, then the cells that are well away from the apical

initials will have doubled and redoubled to the extent that they choke off all growth of the apical cells, resulting in the death of the treated seedlings.

Soaking the seedlings in a solution near the freezing point will prevent the cells from dividing while in the colchicine, and if they are left in the solution long enough all of the cells would have an equal dosage of the colchicine solution. It should be possible to use a much weaker solution than that ordinarily used as there would be sufficient time for all of the cells to take it up. This treatment should be less critical, once the proper solution strength is determined, than other methods considered. The trick to this would be having a solution strong enough to cause colchicine metaphases without having it so strong that the chromosomes would double a second time after the seedlings were returned to room temperature. When the cells divide the amount of colchicine in each one should be cut in half, hopefully below the level that will cause them to double a second time. This should allow us to work around those areas that are not under our direct control.

When the seedlings are treated in the cold colchicine solution the cells are essentially at rest with none of them dividing. This means that all of the cells can receive the same amount of the solution, and that the cells that are the furthest from the apex will receive no more than those that compose the apical initials. When a room temperature solution is used, the outer layers of cells may well double and re-double before the solution even reaches the apical cells, but with the cold solution they all get off to an even start.

Something that showed up while treating the seedlings was that the colchicine solution apparently injured the seed to the extent that the seedling could no longer draw nourishment from the endosperm. Seedlings that were given the colchicine treatment before they had developed roots were much more likely to die than were those that had put out three or four leaves and a root system. This had been observed with the iris, but was especially obvious with the daylily seedlings. Six of these were soaked for three days in the 0.025% solution as soon as they had germinated while five others that had three leaves were soaked for six days in the same solution.

All of these looked good initially and showed the start of some new growth, but after a week or ten days the seedlings that were given the treatment when they first germinated started to dry up, and finally all but one of them died. All of the ones that had three leaves and some roots when they were treated lived and look to be converted. There is an added bonus to the use of the cold colchicine. The tumorous growth that is usually associated with the conventional colchicine treatment is almost completely absent with this treatment.

The ideal way to run a test is to wait for the results of the first test or series of tests before the next ones are started. With the colchicine treatment it may take years before the results can be fully evaluated, so this means that many tests must be run simultaneously. Results are easy to evaluate when all of the seedlings are killed or when they show no effects from the treatment, but that still leaves a lot of room for mistakes to be made. It goes without saying that a lot of the first tests were strictly blind alleys. Even with the complete failures there were things that could be learned.

The decision was finally made to try two different treatments. One, which I am slightly in favor of at present, was to use a 0.025% colchicine solution without a water soak following the treatment. Instead of soaking the seedlings in water following the colchicine treatment they were merely rinsed and planted. The seedlings that were most used were the Louisiana iris and the arilbreds. To give you an idea about how differently the seedlings respond to the treatment, the arilbreds responded to three days soak while the Louisiana seedlings required a six day soak. This proved to be a surprise to me that the seedlings would still be taking up the colchicine after six days, and possibly even longer if they had been left in it.

In the other treatment a 0.1% colchicine solution was used. Again there was a distinct difference in the way the Louisiana seedlings and the arilbred seedlings responded to the treatment. The Louisiana seedlings did best with a 1½ - 2 day soak in the cold colchicine followed by three hours in cold water while the arilbred seedlings did best with a 10-12 hour soak in the colchicine followed by a three hour soak in the cold water.

Both the 0.025% and the 0.1% colchicine solution were successful in producing seedlings that had the appearance of being fully converted to tetraploids, but the 0.025% seems to be a little more forgiving of variations in the treatment.

The Louisiana seedlings produced some entirely unexpected results when they were soaked for three days in the 0.1% solution. The initial growth was very distorted and there was a long interval when no new growth was made. When new leaves finally started to grow they were very definitely diploid rather than the expected tetraploid. A close check on the seedlings that recovered from the three day treatment showed that the new growth had not originated from the main growing point.

The seedlings apparently have completely dormant auxiliary buds in the leaf axils even when they first germinate. As long as the colchicine treatment isn't strong enough to convert the main growing point to tetraploid, these auxiliary buds remain dormant. However, if the main growing point is fully converted, or possibly injured by the colchicine, it loses its dominance over the auxiliary buds and they will commence growth. This was very evident as some of the treated seedlings put up new offsets on both sides of the main growing point. Six seedlings from another cross were given the same treatment and while four of them were killed the other two put up new growth that checked out as tetraploid.

It might be well to take the time here to tell how the initial screening for tetraploids can be made. The first thing that can be checked is the leaves. They will be very rigid if they have been converted rather than more or less flaccid the way the diploid growth is. The next thing to check is the size of the stomata guard cells measured over the long diameter. With the Louisiana iris the diploids will measure 35 - 40 microns while the tetraploids measure 50 - 55 microns. These measurements can be made by peeling the surface layer of cells from a leaf and mounting it in water on a microscope slide. An eyepiece scale will have to be used with the microscope in order to make the measurements.

A second way to use the stomata to check the ploidy level is to count how many can be seen at one time using the microscope at 400 power. The stomata are farther apart on the tetraploid leaves

than they are on the diploid, so there will be about half as many of them to be seen. It is a good idea to compare the ones that might be tetraploid against ones that are known to be diploid.

Another way to check for plants that have been converted to tetraploid is to examine the roots when the plants are being set out. As a general rule the roots of the ones that have been converted will be considerably larger than the ones that have not been. This is most evident when the supposed tetraploid is checked against one of its diploid siblings.

A more accurate way to check the ploidy of the plant is to wait for it to bloom, then check the size of the pollen grains. Again a microscope will be needed, and the pollen can be sprinkled on a drop of water and then covered with a cover glass. It is best to use a four percent solution of acetic acid instead of water as the pollen grains will retain their size better. If plain water is used the pollen grains will continue to take it up until they burst, and unless the measurement is made very fast it will not be accurate. Ordinary vinegar is usually five or six percent acetic acid, so the four percent can be made by diluting it.

None of the methods mentioned above give more than an indication of the ploidy of the colchicine treated plant. A test cross with a known tetraploid is the most accurate of all, and even then seed can be formed when the plant being tested is a diploid. Mr. Joseph Mertzweiller showed this with his inter-ploidy crosses between the diploid and tetraploid Louisiana iris, and this was also well demonstrated when the diploid and tetraploid TBs were crossed to produce the garden TBs, so even the test cross is not completely accurate.

When you get right down to it, there is no 100% way of telling whether or not a colchicine treated plant is other than a chimera. A good example of this is the colchicine treated clone of the diploid that is masquerading as the triploid Ruth Holleyman. A few years back one of the fans was treated with colchicine by injecting it into the growing point. Both the growth, the stomata size, and a chromosome count indicated the plant was a tetraploid. However, when it bloomed the pollen measured the proper size for a diploid, and it crossed quite readily with a diploid Louisiana iris.

The first two years that the plant bloomed the pollen checked out as diploid. Then this year it put up a bloom stalk having only one bloom, but a very gorgeous one, and a check of the pollen size showed about half of it to be tetraploid. It is very seldom that a chimera will be stable, so if a bloom is a good one it pays to hold the plant for several years and hope for the best.

Although the majority of the tests were performed on the Louisiana iris and the arilbreds, similar tests were made on some other plants to insure that this wasn't a one time thing that would work only on the iris. Seedlings from *Pardanthopsis dichotoma* (formerly *iris dichotoma*), *Belamcanda chinensis*, and the daylilies were used but the number of seedlings available was too small to allow the test to be optimized. Corms of *Acidanthera* and the winter hardy *Gladiolus* were also treated. All of these show definite signs of the colchicine poisoning, but like the iris it is much too early to be sure of the results.

Additional tests will be run this fall and winter in an effort to optimize the treatment and to learn more about how the plants respond to it. Although the majority of the dicots respond well to a more conventional treatment, tests should eventually be made with the more resistant species to learn if there is anything to be gained by using this different treatment. ❧

References:

- Plant Propagation*, by Hartman & Kester
- Plant Anatomy*, by A. Fahn
- Gene Expression 2*, by Benjamin Lewis
- The American Horticultural Magazine*, Spring 1968

Request for Guest Bearded Irises

Dallas, 2000

The Iris Society of Dallas, TX in Region 17 will host the Convention of The American Iris Society in the year 2000. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of beardless irises under consideration for introduction.

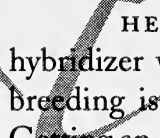
Please observe the following guidelines when you send guest irises:

1. Up to six rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from August 15 – October 1, 1997.
3. All official guest beardless irises must be shipped via UPS to:
J. Farron Campbell
5637 Saddleback Road
Garland, TX 75043
phone: (972) 240-4016
4. The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address.
 - b. Name or seedling number of the variety.
 - c. Type of iris (SIB., SPU., LA., etc.)
 - d. Height, color, and bloom season (E, M, L) and Year of introduction (if introduced).
5. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman no later than December 1, 1999.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by May 15, 2000, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all stock. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.
7. The convention Committee and the owners of the tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.
8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairman will be listed in the convention booklet.

Advice

For Beginning Hybridizers

by Clarence Mahan

HE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FACING AN IRIS hybridizer who is not an established name in the field of iris breeding is not obtaining a seedling worthy of introduction. Getting an excellent seedling is, believe it or not, the easy part of an iris breeder's task. Dr. D. C. Nearpass told me many years ago that if I wanted to get some outstanding seedlings I had two ways to go about it. First, I could choose only outstanding irises as parents and then raise thousands of seedlings. Cross two outstanding pink irises and grow several thousand seedlings from that cross. The odds favor getting at least one distinctive seedling that has many good attributes. Second, I could study iris genetics and pedigrees and make planned crosses toward specific goals. One benefit of the second option is that one does not have to raise so many seedlings.

There are other decisions a beginning hybridizer can make to increase the odds of getting seedlings worthy of registering and introducing. These decisions involve the types of irises one chooses to breed. If one is going to work in the field of once-blooming tall bearded irises, the competition is going to be keen. There are many people breeding once-blooming tall bearded irises and the established "names" are many. So to increase the odds of getting worthy seedlings that will be competitive, you might want to work with types of irises that not many people are breeding. Work with rebloomers, space-age irises, spuria iris species that do not go dormant in the summer, setosas, interspecies crosses, regeliabreds, miniature tall bearded irises or some other "target of opportunity" where few or no other iris breeders are working.

Resisting the temptation to register and introduce a seedling that is not truly worthy is perhaps a little more difficult than obtaining an outstanding seedling. Do not rely on your own

judgment in deciding whether to register an iris. Recruit some experienced judges to give you advice on this, and listen to them. If the experts tell you to use the seedling for future breeding but do not introduce it, do what they say. If they tell you to compost the seedling, you can keep it but do not register it. This takes will power, but it is not the most difficult problem that a beginning iris breeder has to confront.

The most difficult problem a new iris hybridizer has is how to get his or her outstanding new iris distributed, recognized and into the running for awards. This is a subject about which I think I have learned a thing or two, and will presume to offer some advice. The first piece of advice is this: Forget about making money on your iris. If you are not an established name in the field or do not have a large iris nursery and a catalogue with color pictures, you are not going to make much money on your seedling. Even if you are lucky and do make a few dollars, it is probably going to be at the expense of getting wide distribution and recognition of the iris.

Do not introduce your iris until you have sufficient stock. I have made the mistake of introducing an iris too soon, and then did not have enough stock to get it distributed properly. I learned the hard way. If the iris is a once-blooming tall bearded iris or a standard dwarf bearded iris, you should have a couple hundred rhizomes. If the iris is some other class, perhaps a hundred rhizomes will suffice.

Get the seedling distributed before it is introduced. If the iris is a tall bearded, border bearded, miniature tall bearded or some other type that is likely to be blooming at the time of national conventions or regional spring meetings, send it as a guest to these affairs two or three years in advance. There is always a call for guest seedlings for future conventions in the AIS Bulletin. Many regions have spring garden tours and put out calls in their newsletters for guest irises. They usually invite well-known hybridizers to send guest irises by sending them letters. As a beginner you will not be getting such a letter. So write to the various RVPs and ask them to be put on the list to get these invitations. The RVPs will gladly give your letter to whoever is

handling their guest irises for future regional meetings, and you will get a request to send your seedlings or newly introduced irises as guests. There will be a limit as to how many rhizomes of each iris. Send the maximum number allowed. Even after your seedling is registered and introduced, keep sending it as a guest to national conventions and regional spring meetings.

If your seedling is a type of iris that is not likely to be blooming at the time national conventions or regional spring meetings are held, send it to the mini-conventions held by the various AIS sections. Ever since the Society for Japanese Irises started having its own conventions back in the early 1980's, more and more sections are having these events. Calls for guest irises for future conventions of the various sections are announced in their publications. Once your seedling is introduced, do not ask for the increase back. Donate the increase to the section for its auction.

Ask many judges in different regions if they will grow your iris and evaluate it for you. Assuming the evaluations are positive, ask the judges to donate increases to local and regional sales and auctions. Most judges will be happy to do this. In this manner, your iris will get wide distribution. Also, send your new iris to test gardens such as the Dr. Loomis Memorial Trial Gardens in Colorado. Your iris will be seen by many judges at these gardens, and if it is good, it will stand a good chance of picking up votes for AIS awards.

The most important thing you can do to get recognition for your wonderful new iris is to get some really great slides made. If you are not a competent photographer, enlist the service of someone who is to take these pictures. Do not be satisfied with pictures that are mediocre—have slides that show the iris at its best. As soon as your iris is introduced send these great slides to both the AIS Slides Chairman and the person who handles slides for the appropriate AIS section. If your region has a Slides Chairman, send a slide to this person as well.

Finally, the single most important thing you can take to gain recognition for your iris is to take out a color ad in the AIS Bulletin. This is not cheap, but it is cheap for the benefits to be gained.

When I was introducing irises for myself and for others through The Iris Pond I never took out a color picture ad that did not pay for itself. I cannot guarantee you that you will have the same result, but I did not care whether it did or did not pay for itself and I suggest you should not care either. By far the most important reason for taking out a color ad by a hybridizer who is starting out is to get people to see a beautiful picture of your iris.

I will be the first to admit that I sometimes took out a color ad when I did not have a great picture. So I used what I had. Do better planning than I did—get that good picture in advance.

On one occasion I had a great picture of a new introduction that I used in the Bulletin but it was the wrong picture. When The Iris Pond introduced the Siberian iris SHAKER'S PRAYER for Carol Warner, the picture I used was of a single stalk of the iris. SHAKER'S PRAYER has relatively small species-like flowers, and my friends who are "into Siberians" let me know rather quickly that they were not impressed with the iris pictured in the Bulletin. I should, of course, have had a picture of a clump of SHAKER'S PRAYER showing off its magnificent landscape value. Fortunately, soon after the ad appeared many people saw SHAKER'S PRAYER in the tour gardens at the 1991 convention. The rest of this story is now in the realm of the legends of irisdom. And as I previously wrote, even though the picture I used was the wrong one, I sold enough SHAKER'S PRAYER the first year to pay for the ad. Advertising pays.

Those who think that the great era of iris breeding is in the past are wrong. The opportunities for advances and improvements in all types of irises have just begun. Breeding irises is a fun hobby. Most people who hybridize irises for a few years get some interesting and meritorious results. Unfortunately, a majority of these good results probably do not get much recognition. What a shame. It need not be so. ❧

1996 High Commendation

Seedling Award

The High Commendation (HC) Award is voted on by AIS judges and is reserved for seedlings, viewed in gardens under registered name or number, which have not been introduced. An iris must receive a minimum of five votes.

(number of votes in parentheses)

Tall Bearded

- Black, P.
- (5) B 190 A
- Gartman, L.
- (5) 89-20BO
- Innerst, S.
- (10) 3642-6
- Keppel, K.
- (14) 89-99A
- Messick, V.
- (5) M 89-119
- Niswonger, D.
- (9) 45-92
- Roberts, J.
- (5) 733-1
- (5) 573-1
- Stahly, H.
- (5) 92-13
- Sutton, G.
- (5) C-24 RR 1
- Wood, V.
- (6) W 92-49
- (6) 92-20
- Zurbrigg, L.
- (5) LL-100

Standard Dwarf Bearded

- Smith, M.
- (8) 93-06A
- (6) 92-20A

Siberian

- Schafer/Sacks
- (9) S-90-13-1
- (8) S-91-91
- (5) S-90-382
- White, J.
- (8) 93-B4-7
- (7) 93 K-B11-2

Border Bearded

- Keppel, K.
- (6) 89-153 B

Intermediate Bearded

- Smith, M.
- (10) 90-26 B
- (8) 90-26 E

Specied/Interspecies

- Tamberg/Niswonger
- (18) C S1-93

Spuria

- Desantis, P.
- (5) 821 6 C
- Jenkins, C
- (7) BD-29 A

Louisiana

- Dunn, M.
- (5) L 209-2

Design Corner

Table Accessories

by Carolyn Hawkins

ONE OF THE FAVORITE CLASSES IN A FLOWER SHOW with exhibitors and the viewing public are the table designs using several different staging techniques. They inspire one to create a beautiful table in their own home to complement the food service.

These flower show table settings can be traditional or creative and can be functional (a table set for actual service) or exhibitional (components coordinated and placed without consideration of actual food service—decorative only.)

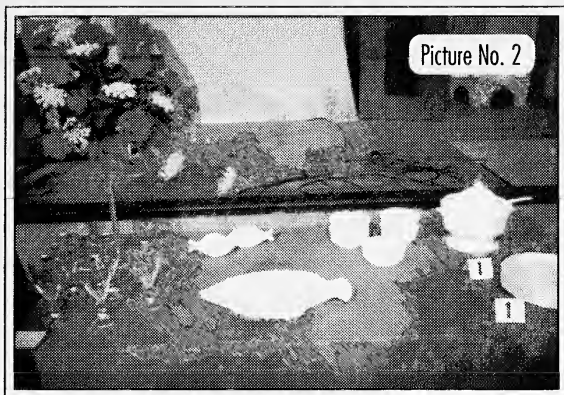
There are several kinds of table settings and since “a picture is worth a thousand words” the following descriptions of the pictures shown will guide you as you might consider including them in your local flower shows.



Picture No. 1 is a table with actual food service for two persons. Botanically designed dishes were used and a plate, cup and saucer were used for actual use. The coffee pot, sugar and salt and pepper shakers are the additional serving pieces. The design unit completes the setting and incorporates the colors of the tablecloth (pink). To unify the exhibit, napkins are of matching fabric and are usually used to enhance the overall exhibit. The underlay under the pink cloth was an off

white and hides the card table legs. Pink iris (“Vanity”) and white Siberian iris were used in the design unit.

Picture No. 2 is a table set as a buffet table and includes service for five. Beverage pieces, plates and soup bowls are included, with service components being the platter, soup



tureen and salt and pepper. The napkins are red and this color is repeated in the floral design using red roses with Queen Anne's Lace. Items on the table are carefully spaced to fill the entire table.

Picture No. 3 is an exhibition table and is not set for actual food service. The plates are placed upright. The design on the plates has a black rim with iris and the color of these iris (lavender) is repeated in the lavender iris in the design unit. The container and napkin rings are black, again repeating the use of a color on the dishes. The

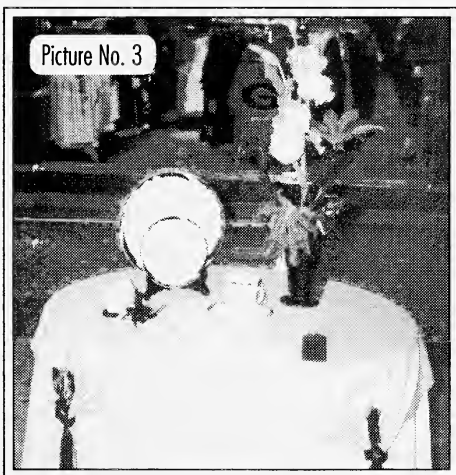


table has an off white covering, hiding the legs. One serving dish would help fill the space and remove the void area on the right.

To make table designs less complicated try using very simple staging, such as pictured. A TV tray or serving tray can be used, a picnic on a bale of hay or a picnic table might be appropriate for the show theme.

Keep the scale of the space in mind when selecting dishes and the flower design. Obviously you cannot put too many things on a TV tray or it will be crowded, but you need more pieces for a buffet.

Use color as a coordinating guide to tie all pieces together in the table covering and dishes. Designs on dishes are fantastic today and all kinds of themes can be followed by using these designs and colors throughout the entry. Dishes can be expensive to buy but if you are inspired to try one of these classes, “shop” at sales, garage sales, tag sales, your friends, and family to locate just what you need. Plastics come in beautiful colors and would fit the picnic theme or backyard cookout, but use pottery or china for intimate dinners for two or a buffet set for five after the opera.

The entire exhibit should include the design unit, plate or plates (as specified) and other items necessary for dining, such as napkins, serving pieces, cups or glasses. These items can be specified in the schedule but it is best to leave the class requirements as designer’s choice so the exhibitor will have freedom to pick and choose. Of course, you would want to specify that plant material must include iris in the design unit.

Additional items can include candles (wicks need not be charred or lighted), placemats, runners, etc. Flatware can be used but could “disappear” so it is usually discouraged. If you are doing a picnic theme plastic flatware would be appropriate. Flatware of wood or other inexpensive metal that can be replaced if lost will work also.

The way the table is arranged should move the eye through the entire table and back again. After setting everything out, stand back and see if you have a rhythm and flow through the entire exhibit. Does your eye stop with a tall item placed in the middle—try moving it to one side and see if this works better. Another danger is the use of white or yellow—these colors will grab all of the attention and detract from the other components so be careful using plates or major serving pieces in these colors. Sometimes a napkin draped over the item or tied on a handle will help subdue the color. Have fun with this and try your luck at it—even if it is in your home and not on the show floor.

For reference, more ideas and information you can call 1-800-550-6007 and order *Table Settings for All Seasons* by Wood and Smith from National Council. It is one of the latest publications on this subject and there are videos available also.

A future article will include more on table designs, but this article will give everyone a brief explanation and maybe some ideas on how to add this class to your shows. ❧

**Correction to ad which originally appeared in the
April 1997 AIS Bulletin**

1997 INTRODUCTIONS

CONCISE, TB, 36", M-L, sdlg. #4060-8, (Silverado X Foreign Statesman) Reddish-violet-purple self. White beards. Excellent branching with seven to nine buds. Fertile both ways with great form. **\$35.00**

BACK STREET AFFAIR, TB, 34", M-L, sdlg. #3973-6, (Springhouse X Mixed Double) S. mid yellow, F. coffee with milk brown-narrow yellow border. Beards brilliant gold. Nine buds. Fertile both ways. **\$35.00**

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, TB, 36", M-L, sdlg. #4034-5, Jitterbug X 3348-2: ((Capricious x Colortart) x Queen in Calico) Standards, hot pink. Falls, hot pink with purple lines around beards and edge of falls. **\$35.00**

DEVILMENT, TB, 34", E, sdlg. #3642-7 (Was numbered 3642-6, in error, in Sacramento.) (Round Table X Progressive Attitude) S. mid yellow. F. mid yellow narrowly trimmed dark brown. 7-9 buds. HC 96. Vigorous! **\$35.00**

HELEN LEADER, TB, 36", M-L, sdlg. #3953-5, (Deserving Treasure X Goodbye Heart) S. dark pink. Falls, dark pinks overlaid lavender giving pink bitone effect in garden. Named in memory of a devoted member of Susquehanna Iris Society, who took over her husband's commercial garden after his death and did a great job of growing and selling irises. 7-9 buds with excellent branching. **\$35.00**

5 TB's \$145, no extras

STERLING and BARBARA INNERST
2700-A Oakland Road
Dover, PA 17315
717-764-0281

How to Register and Introduce an Iris

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises except bulbous irises.

Registration

1. Write to the AIS Registrar, Keith Keppel, P. O. Box 18154, Salem, OR 97305, for a registration blank, enclosing check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. The fee is \$7.50 per registration, or \$10.00 if transferring a name from a previous registration.

2. At the same time, select a name which has not previously been used and submit it for approval. To determine availability of name, please refer to all ten-year Check Lists (beginning 1939) and annual Registrations and Introductions booklets (beginning 1990). Please also suggest alternate names. A name is not registered until the registration application has been completed and approved and a certificate of registration returned to you.

3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Rules are subject to change, but at the present time the following names will not be permitted:

a. Names of living persons without their written consent, or names of recently (10 years) deceased persons without permission of next of kin or other authority.

b. Personal names containing the following forms of address or their equivalent in another language: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.

c. Names including symbols, numerals, non-essential punctuation or abbreviations.

d. Names beginning with the articles "a" or "the" or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.

e. Names in Latin or in latinized form.

f. Slight variation of a previously registered name.

g. Names in excess of three words, ten syllables, or thirty letters.

h. Names containing the word "iris" or "flag" or the species name of any recognized species of Iris, or formed wholly by recombining parts of the parental species' names.

i. Names containing the hybridizer's name in possessive form.

j. Names which exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. Heaviest Lace, Tallest Black), or which are composed solely of adjectives which could be construed as a simple description (e.g. Pale Blue, Ruffled).

k. Names translated from the original language; they should be transliterated as necessary.

4. Previously registered names may be re-used only if (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in the parentage of later registrations, and (c) a statement of permission is obtained from the prior registrant.

5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof that no stock now exists and that the iris was not listed as a parent in registrations.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction is the offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, and advertisements in the American Iris Society Bulletin are acceptable means of introduction. It is a requisite of awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. A variety is not eligible for listing on the awards ballot until after it has been recorded as introduced by the Registrar-Recorder. Send the Registrar a copy of your list, catalog or advertisement by first class mail so verification of introduction can be made.

The Registrar will supply a sample application form upon receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope.

AIS Foundation

Contributions in Memory of:

October 1, 1996 – March 31, 1997

Contributions to the *AIS Foundation* go toward a restricted fund which is invested in special projects, and are reported in the January & July Bulletins.

Contributions to the *American Iris Society* go into the AIS general funds to be used as operating expenses and can be earmarked for short term projects in the budget, and are reported in the April & October Bulletins.

Ackerman Youth Essay Contest

Anonymous (CA)

Susquehanna Iris Society (PA)

Gladys Austin (CA)

Duane & Joyce Meek (OR)

Chester Blaylock (MO)

O. David Niswonger (MO)

Southeast Missouri Iris Society

Mary Brown (NJ)

Region 19 AIS

Alan Denney (KS)

Duane & Joyce Meek (OR)

Ella Dietloff (NE)

Region 21 of AIS (NE)

Kathryn L. Gellerman (MN)

Iris Society of Minnesota

Wayne L. Gossett (OK)

Jeane & Larry Stayer (OK)

Arthur "Corky" Gristwood (NY)

George & Olive Rice Waters (CA)

Nell & Glenn Corlew (CA)

Dr. Grant L. Hagen (MD)

Francis Scott Key Iris Society (MD)

Maynard E. Harp (MD)

Francis Scott Key Iris Society (MD)

Verda Harvey (NE)

Region 21 of AIS (NE)

Edgar S. Higman (IA)

Region 21 of AIS (NE)

Siouxland iris Society (IA)

Evelyn Jones (OR)

George & Olive Rice Waters (CA)

Evelyn Jones (MN)

Iris Society of Minnesota (MN)

Ivan Kinney (MI)

Grand Valley Iris Society (MI)

Glen Ynapp (IA)

Region 21 of AIS (NE)

C. J. Lack (OK)

Duane & Joyce Meek (OR)

Ellene Rockwell (OK)

Helen Lewellen (MO)

Show Me Iris Society (MO)

Anne Long (CO)

David & Judith Miller (CO)

Elmohr Iris Society (CO)

Ina "Mimi" Mallon (OK)

Lawton Area Friends of Iris

Society (OK)

Alfred Markwardt (MN)

Iris Society of Minnesota

Georgia Maxim (CA)

Duane & Joyce Meek (OR)

Bernard W. McLaughlin (ME)

Maine Iris Society, Ted White

James McWhirter (CA)

Ted M. Lee (SC)

Harry Miens (IA)

Region 21 of AIS (NE)

Faith Morgan (CA)

Mt. Diablo Iris Society (CA)

Alma Niswonger (MO)

George & Olive Rice Waters (CA)

Glenda Norrick (IN)

Emma Hobbs (IN)

<i>Cleo Palmer</i> (OK)	<i>Addie Russell</i> (TX)
Jeane & Larry Stayer (OK)	Nell & Glenn Corlew (CA)
<i>Richard T. Pettijohn</i> (NE)	<i>Fred Sanders</i> (IA)
Dorothy C. Howard (OK)	Region 21 of AIS (NE)
Duane & Joyce Meek (OR)	<i>Blanche C. Scott</i> (OK)
Edith Wolford (TX)	Lawton Area Friends of Iris Society
Evelyn & Bennet Jones (OR)	<i>Capt. (Ret.) Otis R. Skinner</i> (TX)
Jeane & Larry Stayer (OK)	Mary Ellene Rockwell (TX)
Kenneth & Agnes Waite, Sr. (MA)	<i>Herb Spence</i> (UT)
Larry Harder (NE)	Duane & Joyce Meek (OR)
Mac & Marilyn Holloway (CA)	<i>W. W. Steinhauer</i> (NJ)
Mary Ellene Rockwell (TX)	Region 19 AIS
Mt. Diablo Iris Society (CA)	<i>Tom Tingley</i> (NE)
Nell & Glenn Corlew (CA)	Region 21 of AIS (NE)
O. David Niswonger (MO)	<i>Bee Warburton</i> (MA)
Paul W. Gossett (OK)	Duane & Joyce Meek (OR)
Region 21 of AIS (NE)	Ellene Rockwell (TX)
Sidney Dubose & Ben Hager (CA)	<i>Evelyn Worel</i> (MN)
Wilbert & Charlotte Sindt (MN)	Iris Society of Minnesota

How Can You Make a Contribution or Memorial Gift?

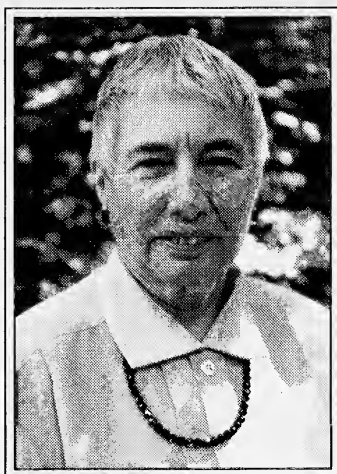
Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society or the American Iris Society Foundation. Donations are tax deductible. When sending a memorial gift, please include name and address of next-of-kin, so that a card of acknowledgment may be sent. Send to:

American Iris Society	<i>or</i>	AIS Foundation
Jeanne Plank, Secretary		Roger P. Mazur, Treasurer
8426 Vine Valley Dr		5824 Erskine #7
Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656		Omaha, NE 68104-4159

Evelyn K. Jones

1917 - 1997

by Keith Keppel



BORN EVELYN PENISTON TO DEAF-mute parents in Gallatin, MO, she succumbed on March 20 following a valiant eleven month battle with pancreatic cancer. Not only did her husband, noted hybridizer Bennett Jones, lose a devoted wife, the AIS lost a staunch supporter, tireless worker, and hybridizer in her own right.

With a background in accounting, she became assistant controller, accounts payable, for a large department store chain in Kansas City, and was also financial secretary for the North Kansas City Methodist Church for 35 years. The iris tie-in began after her marriage to Robert Minnick, for they both liked to garden and liked irises. They were members of the local iris society and their garden was on tour during the 1962 AIS convention.

The Minnicks and the Joneses had been friends, and after both Evelyn and Bennett lost their mates, a strong emotional bond developed. They married, and Evelyn moved to Portland, OR, where she soon became involved in local iris functions. It was also natural that she should follow in Bennett's footsteps and begin making iris crosses. During the twelve years of their marriage, she registered eight irises: the TBs Pretty Beginning and Pond Lily; IBs Pawnee Princess, Bold Stroke, Discovered Gold, and Country Dance; and SDBs Snow Season and Morning's Blush. These irises have been well received, and Pawnee Princess has already won an Award of Merit.

When the AIS Library was moved to Silverton, OR, Evelyn was appointed as the first chairman of that committee, working diligently to make order out of chaos brought about by the Library's several moves. When she became too ill to go to Silverton, she had materials brought to Portland so she could continue to sort and file at home. One of her last requests was that any memorials sent to AIS be designated for the Library Fund.

In addition to Bennett, she is survived by her daughter, a step-daughter, six grandchildren and one brother. Her determination to remain active and productive, plus her cheerful attitude despite the inevitable outcome of her condition has been an inspiration to all who knew and loved her.

Lillian U. Gristwood

1921 - 1997

by Donna James,
Central New York Iris Society



ON APRIL 5, 1997, WE ALL LOST A DEAR FRIEND and a tireless worker for AIS and Region 2. Lillian Gristwood's health had deteriorated during the past few years, and she was finally taken from us.

Lillian is survived by her husband, Jim, and her two daughters, Peggy and Cindy, a brother and two sisters, six grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Her only son died last year. Lillian lived most of her life in the Fulton-Phoenix area of central New York. She was a draftsman for the General Electric Company in Syracuse until she retired in 1987.

Lil joined the American Iris Society in 1958 and was a loyal and dedicated member from the start; both for AIS and for her own club and Region. She served on the AIS Board for nine years and was also the chair of the Exhibitions Committee until she retired last year.

In Region 2, Lil served three years as RVP. She was an anchor of the Empire State Iris Society and of her own club, the Central New York area. Lil and Jim won the first *Ruth Blenis* award for best of show. In her lifetime she served in many offices, filling in wherever needed. She was a master judge and, along with her husband, she judged many shows. She also won many awards for the irises she entered herself.

Among the honors and awards bestowed on Lillian within her own Region was the "Diamond Lil" award and more recently, a Silver Tea to celebrate her longevity in Region 2. Lillian and Jim hosted the annual iris sale and picnic for many years, an event much anticipated by her local club members.

For all of these honors and accolades, it should be noted that Lil never sought the limelight. She was a worker who always wanted to know how she could help. Her pies were legendary; she sang in her church's choir; arranged flowers for the altar. Lil had a strong mind and was not afraid to stand up for what she believed in. She loved her irises and she also had a strong faith in God, even to the end.

During my last visit with Lillian, we walked together into her garden to see the newly bloomed iris *reticulata*, and Lil said to me "I love spring, it's a time of rebirth". Thus we say *shalom* to our Diamond Lil. We are fortunate to have known and loved her, and when spring comes again and the irises are blooming, and when we're working in our iris beds, we know Lil will be there working at our sides.

Editor's Note: Lillian Gristwood was also awarded the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL in 1996, and she was aware of this honor before her death.

Cleo Palmer

by Loretta Aaron, Sooner State Iris News, June, 1996

WHEN KATHY POORE ASKED ME TO DO A PROFILE ON CLEO PALMER, I had no idea I would never have the chance to tell him how much I admired him. Cleo was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was a kind man who never engaged in idle conversation. He was a very private person.

He shared his knowledge of iris culture and hybridizing secrets with anyone who asked for advice. Cleo attended most of the meetings of the Sooner State Iris Society, where I met him more than twenty-five years ago. He seldom came to any meeting without bringing a sack or box of garden treasures to share with members present. My garden is richer due to his generous gifts, as are many other gardens throughout the state. The memory of Cleo will always be present in my garden. He also shared Asiatic lily bulbs, gladioli bulbs, species irises and seedling trees from his Goldenrain tree. I suspect many of us have warm memories of Cleo, the most generous man with a big heart.

Cleo farmed near Geary, Oklahoma and had a commercial iris garden where he engaged in hybridizing. He also grew many other plants and flowers. Cleo usually displayed his seedlings at shows. He was never too busy to stop and help an exhibitor with his/her specimens. I learned much from him on how to choose a specimen for competition, and how to groom the specimen.

Most of his hybridizing work was done in SDBs and other Medians, but his talents did not stop there, as he also introduced some good TBs and ABs. When Cleo introduced an iris, it had to be good. His SDB CANARY PRINCE was the first one of his I grew, and it will remain as each spring it blooms profusely. CINDY MITCHELL is also a favorite. Some of the color combinations in his seedlings were rather wild, but that color break appealed to me.

Cleo Palmer was one of those rare individuals who left the world a better place for his having lived.

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

\$20.00

The World of Irises

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 526 pages.

\$6.00

Handbook for Judges and Show Officials

\$2.50 ea., or ***Basic Iris Culture***. Pamphlets. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs or shows.

\$4.50

AIS Bulletins: Back Issues (not all issues available)

\$10.00

1994 AIS Membership Book.

A complete listing of members of AIS, including addresses.

\$10.00 ea.

Check Lists: 1939, 1949, 1959, & 1969

Reprint. Soft cover.

\$17.00

Check List, 1979

Reprint. Ten-year compilation of registrations 1970 - 1979.

\$15.00

Check List, 1989

Ten-year compilation of registrations 1980 - 1989.

\$6.00 ea.

Registrations and Introductions:

1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996.

\$2.50

Bronze 50th Anniversary Medals

The AIS 50th Anniversary medal in antiqued bronze. Suitable for pendants, show prizes, and special awards.

Special! While They Last!

\$2.00 ea, or 5 for \$5.00

1996 & 1997 Calendars

75th Anniversary Collection

\$25.00

Commemorative Medal

Solid Silver, 1 ½ inches across. Only 500 struck.

\$3.00

Poster

\$7.50

Bulletin

\$5.00

AIS Lapel Pins

AIS logo in blue & green on silver plated pin ½" x ⅝" with safety lock.

\$2.50 per pack

AIS Seals

\$10.00 for 5 packs

Self-adhesive ovals larger than a half dollar, official design in blue and green on silver background. (50 per pack)

\$4.00, 1 pack

Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)

\$10.00, 3 packs

\$25.00, 10 packs

Prices include postage and handling. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society. Send order to:

Irv & Nancy Pocklington
609 Harrington St
Carlinville, IL 62626-1230

Phone: (217) 854-2184

Notice!

The AIS Storefront is moving!
(...to Illinois. See new order information above.)

Please hold new orders until September 1st.

Those who have already ordered may experience a delay during this transitional phase. Our apologies for the delays.

Rent Slide Sets from the American Iris Society

AIS Slide Sets available for 1997:

The Newest in Irises: 1992 – 1996 Introductions. Mostly TBs, but contains other types.

Recent Award Winners: HM and AM Winners, 1992 – 1995

The Popularity Poll: Favorite 100 irises as reflected by the 1996 AIS Symposium

Types other than Tall Bearded: Bearded and beardless, arranged in blooming sequence.

Reliables: Mostly past award winners of various types — especially suited for newer iris societies and garden clubs.

1994 Portland Iris Convention

1995 York Iris Convention

Iris Trivia: This is a small set of slides and questions that can be used for a fun and informative meeting. (Use of all questions and slides takes at least one hour.)

To Order: Requests for slides should be made well in advance of requested date, preferably six to eight weeks. If optional, specify alternate sets and/or dates. Clearly *print* name and mailing address to whom slides are to be sent. Rental fee is \$7.50 per set, payable to AIS. Only one set allowed for any request date. AIS Affiliate Societies are entitled to one free set per calendar year. Slide sets are to be returned next day after viewing by *Priority Mail*. Send check with request to:

Hooker Nichols
3365 Northaven Rd.
Dallas, TX 75229
Phone: (214) 352-2191

Section Slides Available:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Clay H. Osborne, 47806 Calle Fiesta, Indio, CA 92201. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Joan Cooper, 212 West Country Rd. C, St. Paul, MN 55113. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check to Japanese Iris Society.

Louisiana: Order from Dalton Durio, Route 7, Box 43, Opelousas, LA 70570. Check to Society for Louisiana Irises. Rental fee is \$10.00.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check to MIS.

Rebloomers: Contact Olive Rice-Waters, 1914 Napa Ave, Berkley, CA 94707. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Thomas Abrego, P.O. Box 693, Newberg, OR 97132. Check to Society for Siberian Irises.

Species: Several sets available. Order from Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave, Sudbury MA 01776. Check to SIGNA.

Spurias: To order, contact Patricia Brooks, 102 Jefferson Lane, Ladson, SC 29456. Check to Spuria Iris Society.

Revised Ad Rates

Please note the changed rates below for color ads and extra services. Shopping Section rates and black & white display ad rates are unchanged.

Shopping Section (formerly the "Commercial Directory") found in the back of each *Bulletin*. Placement is alphabetical.

\$42.00	15/16 inch	Rate is for 4 issues. Price does <i>not</i> include typesetting or layout. All ads are 2 1/16 inch wide.
\$58.00	1 15/16 inch	
\$73.00	2 15/16 inch	

Display Advertising (Rate is for single issue, camera ready)

Black & White:

\$35.00	1 inch	1 x 4 1/4
\$46.00	1/4 page	1 7/8 x 4 1/4 (wide), or 3 3/4 x 2 1/8 (tall)
\$58.00	1/3 page	2 1/2 x 4 1/4 (wide), or 7 1/2 x 1 1/2 (tall)
\$81.00	1/2 page	3 3/4 x 4 1/4 (wide), or 7 1/2 x 2 1/8 (tall)
\$104.00	2/3 page	5 x 4 1/4
\$115.00	3/4 page	5 5/8 x 4 1/4
\$138.00	Full page	7 1/2 x 4 1/4

Color (price plus color separations at cost):

\$150.00	1/3 page mini ad (if space available)
\$276.00	Full page, interior page.
\$250.00	Full page, interior page, 4 consecutive issue discount.
\$400.00	Full page, centerfold or inside back cover.
\$425.00	Full page, inside front cover.
\$500.00	Full page, outside back cover.

Extra Services

\$5.00	Logo Processing
\$10.00	Photo Processing
\$15.00	Text Processing, minimum
\$20.00	Text Processing, 2/3 page -- full page
\$30.00	Text Processing, 2 page spread

Terms

Payment is due with ad copy. Ads due: July 15 (Oct. issue), October 15 (Jan. issue), January 15 (Apr. issue), April 15 (Jul. issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to:

Jean Erickson, Advertising Editor (707) 526-5204
4036 Trinity Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Bulletin of the AIS Shopping Section

AAA QUALITY ENGRAVERS

*Botanical Garden
Quality Engraved
Labels for Iris
& other plants.*



- U.V. Stable
- Quickly Installed
- AAA Service, 1-2 wks.
- Black or Teal Green
- New Round Corners

*Ask for **FREE SAMPLE***
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Species**

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Albers & Tankesley-Clarke**

More Color Than Ever
Catalogue \$3.00; Refundable



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<http://www.teleport.com/~painting>

Aitken's **Salmon Creek Garden**

Award winning Irises

Introductions by Terry Aitken, Ken
Fisher, Chad Harris, Bennett &
Evelyn Jones, Carol Lankow, and
Marky Smith.

\$2.00 for Color Catalog

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden
608 NW 119 St
Vancouver WA 98685



Shopping Section



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ACRES**

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Argyle, Texas 76226
817/464-3680

For Catalog: Send two first
class stamps and your address.

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BEARDED IRISES**

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Computer software to catalog and store
your record-keeping needs, specifically
made for Iris Collections. System
minimum: vga monitor, 386 CPU,
6 meg ram, 1.4 floppy, Windows 3.1 or
Windows 95.

Note ! Please indicate which version.

☐ Windows 3.1 ☐ Windows 95
\$24.95 + S&H \$6.00 \$29.95 + S&H \$6.00

No programming required.
Send check or money order only.

B.B. Iris
669 Peoria St. NO. 118
Aurora, CO 80011

BAY VIEW GARDENS

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Send \$2.00 for catalog listing the finest in
Tall, Louisiana, Pacifica, and Spuria Irises.

Babbette's Gardens

Specializing in TBs and Daylilies



Send \$1 for Catalog
Please make checks payable to:
Babbette Sandt
40975 N. 172 St East
Lancaster, CA 93535

Video tape of
gardens available
for \$18 - includes
catalog



**Old & New
Varieties
GREAT VALUES**

Send \$1.00 for catalog

**BLUEBIRD HAVEN
IRIS GARDEN**

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SOMERSET, CA 95684

THE BLOOMING PLACE

1902 east Pine Lodge rd.
Roswell, NM 88201

Pansies, Perennials and Bulbs: list for
FALL PLANTING available in August.
Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs; SPRING
PLANTING available in January.
IRIS list available in May.

Send first class stamp
for descriptive listing.

THE BLOOMING PLACE

We Grow Our Plants Especially For You

BORGLUM'S IRIS

2202 Austin Road
Geneva, NY 14456

Home of the Siberian "Lake Keuka"
TB - BB - SDB - SIB
Send stamp for price list.

Shopping Section

Bois d'Arc Gardens

Ed & Rusty Ostheimer
1831 Bull Run Road
Schriever, Louisiana 70360
Phone: 504-446-2329
Louisiana Irises Wholesale & Retail
Color Catalogue: \$2.00

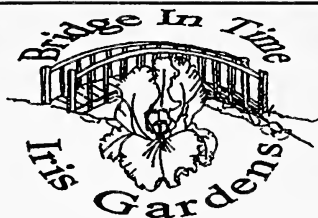


Specializing in Tall Bearded Irises

Located at 9130 Highway 99E,
Los Molinos, CA, just 30 minutes
North of Chico.

Catalog \$1 (refundable)
send to

Gene and Tina Cabral
P.O. Box 9264, Chico, CA 95927
916-345-3937



1996

Introductions of

Betty Wilkerson

10116 Scottsville Road
Alvaton, KY 42122

with an emphasis on rebloomers.
Also listing approximately 500 irises,
both old and new
... some rebloomers.
Send stamp for price list.



Specializing in TBs, BBs, IB, SDBs, and Spurias.

CAPE IRIS GARDENS

822 Rodney Vista Blvd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Catalog \$1.00—Refundable

Dave Niswonger, Hybridizer and Grower

George Clinton Bush
Clean Shaven Iris
Japanese - Siberian - Species
Big list for a stamp. Reduced Prices.
1739 Memory Lane Extd
York, PA 17402

CHER-DEN IRIS FARM

29523 Highway 36
Brookfield MO 64628

TB BB IB SDB RE SA
send stamp for price list

Shopping Section

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Largest selection of quality
affordable bearded irises (new
and old) in Southern California.

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14115 Pear St.
Riverside CA 92508

Catalog: 2 first-class stamps



Chuck Chapman Iris

11 Harts Lane
Guelph, Ont., Canada
N1L 1B1

Over 1000 Median & MDB
Over 2000 total IRIS
Rebloomers, Historical
Pseudacorus, Species

\$2.00 for Catalog
Refundable
from order



CHEHALEM GARDENS

Tom and Ellen Abrego
PO Box 693 Newberg OR 97132
Siberian and Spuria Irises
Descriptive price list available upon request

Comanche Acres Iris Gardens

Route 1, Box 258
Gower, MO 64454

Quality TB, BB, LA
and median irises at
reasonable prices.

— *Introductions by* —
Jim Hedgecock, Henry Rowland
and Jimmy Burch.

*Beautiful tall bearded color
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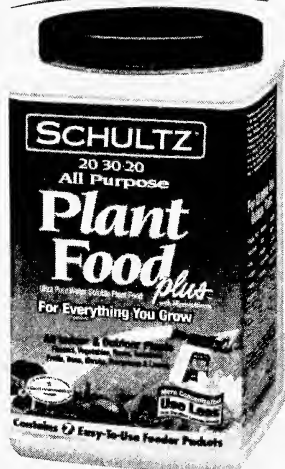
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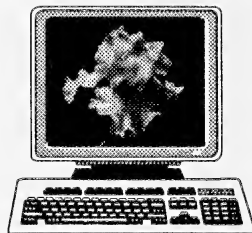
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Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXVIII, No. 4

Series No. 307

October 1997

Editor: Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St., Vancouver WA 98685-3802**Advertising Editor:** Jean Erickson, 4036 Trinity Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-7714**Photo Coordinator:** Robert Plank, 8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656**Scientific Editor:** Adele Lawyer, 4333 Oak Hill Road, Oakland, CA 94605-4523**Layout & Graphic Design:** Scott Aitken, *Flash Graphic Design*,
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The *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* is published quarterly by The American Iris Society. Publishing Office, 8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656. Periodical postage paid at Sun Valley, CA, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price is included in annual membership dues of \$18.00. Annual Subscription rate \$18.00 per year. All copy due in Editor's office by Oct. 15 (Jan.), Jan. 15 (April), April 15 (July), July 15 (October). This *Bulletin* was printed by Parris Printing Co. Copyright © 1997 The American Iris Society.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*,
8426 Vine Valley Drive, Sun Valley CA 91352-3656.

How to reach the American Iris Society:

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Spuria Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Society for Japanese Iris	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
Reblooming Iris Society	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Society for PCNs	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Species Iris Group	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Dwarf Iris Society	4.50	12.00	6.75	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	5.00	12.00	6.00	15.00
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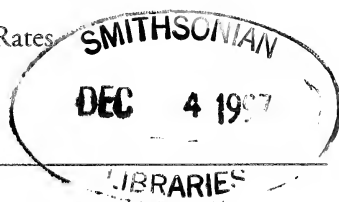
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AIS Bulletin

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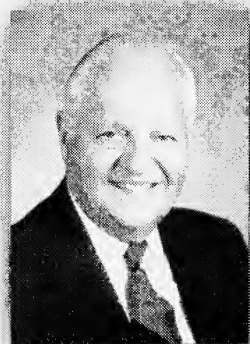
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President's Message

Fall Musings

by Dave Niswonger

THE SPRING CONVENTION IN DEARBORN, MICHIGAN WAS well planned and the folks involved did everything they could to make it an enjoyable occasion. However, Mother Nature didn't exactly cooperate, and what we saw were lots of SDBs, IBs and MTBs! I can't recall any AIS Spring convention when an SDB won the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup, but VAVOOM (Ensminger '94) did this year. Nor can I remember when an MTB won the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup at one convention and the President's Cup at another, but BANGLES (L. Miller '95) did. We did have a wonderful time, meeting new friends and visiting with the old ones. It was a enjoyable Convention!



Dave Niswonger, AIS President

The Board spent a day and an half discussing and acting on many important issues. They added two more committees. The Ways and Means Committee is to look into various possibilities to raise funds, and a Committee to study Regional Boundaries was also established. Recommendations as to membership of these committees will soon be presented to the Board.

The Foundation Board also met and awarded two grants, one to Dr. Currier McEwen to finish his study of diseases affecting the beardless irises and another to Dr. Rodionenko for bringing up to date the status of rare iris species of Russia and surrounding countries. As I recall, Dr. Rodionenko has made twenty five field trips in search of new iris species and feels there are more to be discovered that could be lost if we don't act soon. This two year grant will help him to review field notes, along with on site visits to culminate his lifelong involvement in this endeavor.

For the first time during my tenure on the Board, a silent auction was held. Thirty six hundred dollars was raised, with six hundred of it going to the AIS Library Fund and the rest to the General Fund. Keith McNames, Chairman of the Library Committee, brought some interesting excess items from the AIS Library, which, with the Board's approval, were put in the auction. Books, iris artifacts and many different types of irises were donated on very short notice. I want to thank the donors and the bidders for their participation. I apologize to those of you who weren't contacted; we just didn't have enough time. However, we are going to do a repeat at Denver. Carla Lankow has agreed to chair this auction again, so let her know what you would like to provide!

We have had a change in our Publications Director. I want to thank Jerry Gifford for his service and for assisting in a smooth transition. My thanks are also extended to Irv and Nancy Pocklington for taking over this responsibility. Please let them know if they can help bring your iris library up to date. Is your Region or Club missing some issues of the AIS Bulletins? If so, the Pocklingtons are likely to have the issue that you need.

The winter months will soon be here, providing a good time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the coming year. Are there any youths in your area that your Club may wish to sponsor so they can receive the Bulletin and gain pen pals and other information that the youth group has to offer? Have you provided your local library with *The World of Irises* or other iris books that might be of interest to the general public? AIS calendars make nice Christmas gifts. It's a good time to write that informative letter in your Robin of your experiences this past year that might be of help to other Robin members. Speaking of writing, why don't you write an article for your local, regional, sectional or national publication? I'm sure your editor would be pleased, and your experiences can be of help to other members.

The Fall Board meeting is coming up the first week-end in November (including Halloween, October 31st), in Austin, Texas. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please let the Secretary know so we can consider them.

Winter is almost here. Let's make the most of it. Best wishes for a good, mild, catching up winter. ❧

Editor's Message

Ramblings

by Terry Aitken

WE ARE BECOMING PARANOID ABOUT OUR "mechanical helpers". Our scanner, as wonderful an asset as it is, seems to have a mind of its own. Awards Chairman Melody Wilhoit delivered letter perfect text to us for scanning the Symposium Ballot only to have the scanner perform its ultimate act of defiance by placing two names on one line. We will make sure to include all four affected irises on next year's ballot, MAHARISHI, MANAGUA, MY SHADOW and MYSTIQUE. My apologies to the hybridizers of these irises, as well as the others with spelling errors. We will simply have to spend more time proofing this material.



Terry Aitken, AIS Bulletin Editor

The color photos of SUKY (Mahan '91) and AUTUMN CIRCUS (Hager '90), page 52 of the July Bulletin, were supposed to refer to the Sterling Innerst article on Rebloom in the April Bulletin, pages 95 - 97.

Climate Tolerance

The dramatic photo of FANCY WOMAN (taken on tour at the Cline garden in Michigan) was featured on the inside back cover of the July Bulletin, not because it was just another pretty face, but because it represents a good example of climate tolerance. When a cultivar can claim exceptional attention at a mild climate convention one year (Sacramento, 1996), then turn right around


the next year and survive the iron grip of a Great Lakes winter and thrive to put on an outstanding performance—that is climate tolerance.

Ever since I started breeding irises twenty years ago, I have been coached on the importance of developing irises that perform well over a large part of the planet. On the convention tours we are constantly searching for varieties that grow well outside of their home region. These are the plants to use as breeding stock. This winter I shall try to get some reports from around the country which could be a useful shopping list.

Another useful tool is to search the show award winners for plants that are “winning away from home”. These will not necessarily be the newest varieties, but they will be the best growers. Check your January Bulletins.

A good example of climate tolerance and vigor is the 1997 Dykes Medal Winner, THORNBIRD (Byers '89). Here is a plant that was originally selected in a Napa Valley, California garden. It has grown enthusiastically throughout North America. While some have struggled with the aesthetic merit of strange protuberances arising where the beard ought to be, and some have been less than enthusiastic about its form, on all other counts it is the kind of winner that the Dykes Medal is supposed to represent.

Other irises on the Convention tour that we noted were AUTUMN TRYST, ROMANTIC EVENING, EPICENTER and JESSE'S SONG, all a long way from their California home and blooming bravely. ACAPULCO GOLD from Texas, CREME GLACEE from France, RINKY DINK, and CROSS CURRENT from Oregon, were all thriving in a harsher climate than where they were raised.

Clarence Mahan's article on Advice for Beginning Hybridizers in the July Bulletin is valid. I would supplement that by recommending the selection of seedlings with exceptional vigor. Many of the award winners got where they are today by exhibiting both exceptional climate tolerance and vigor. 

Youth Views

Youth Essay Contest Winner

by Jean E. Morris

THE AIS FOUNDATION HAS ANNOUNCED THE 1997 winner of the *Jay and Marian Ackerman Youth Essay Contest*. She is fifteen-year-old Laura Gibson of Manchester, Maryland (Region 4). The cash prize of \$100 was made possible this year and in past years by Mrs. Robert Thrun of Lansing, Michigan. Future monies for the contest will depend upon contributions by regions, affiliates and individual AIS members.

This year's Essay topic was, "If you could have an iris garden anywhere in the world, where would it be? What would you grow, and why?" Laura's essay, which follows, is very thoughtful and expresses appreciation to AIS adults for their advice and friendship.

In My Own Backyard, by Laura Gibson

If I could put my iris gardens anywhere in the world, I would have them exactly where they are now—in my own backyard. Long ago I joined the ranks of fellow gardeners who had shared the dream common to us all: to find a place where we could grow our own "Garden of Eden." We would have it to be perfect in every way. The rain would be soft and gentle causing no muddy splash-ups that result in unsightly leaf spots. The sun would shine just right also, never scorching and never withdrawing itself so much as to result in yellowed, sickly plants. The soil would have a composition superior for growing every type of iris and it would be such a pretty color that mulch would hardly be needed to improve its appearance. In such a utopia, insects wouldn't dare to do anything but admire and occasionally pollinate as needed the beautiful flowers that would grow there. Naturally the irises would bloom continuously as well.

Yes, this might be our dream of a perfect iris garden location, but I wonder how long we would be happy with it if we got that

wish. I think of how it would have drastically changed my own experiences. Many of the iris growers who I now admire and view as friends I would never have met. As a new inexperienced iris enthusiast, I have often sought the advice of veterans who have already battled against the onslaught of iris borers, funguses, and rot. This is not even including the losses I have sustained due to my own limited knowledge.

In the course of all these troubles, I have gained (and continue to gain) a wealth of information, more than I had ever asked for. Some of the practical tips for keeping common garden pests away were totally new to me. Finding out that some iris rhizomes need to be dried in the sun for a few days before planting while others won't tolerate having their roots exposed for even a few hours was also new.

Each new variety of iris brings along and presents a fun challenge and delight for me. The common Tall Bearded iris introduced me to the iris world five years ago and the Intermediate, Border, and Dwarf Bearded, the Japanese, the Siberians, and Louisianas have each added a different dimension since then. The lovely lavender-pink and pink amoena bearded iris have snatched my heart away just like the cupid their color represents. The Space Agers have started to creep into my gardens and I hope to add a unique touch with variegated foliage and "zebra" striped flowers soon. The approved traditional standbys are beautifully elegant and I love them dearly, but the exotic looking irises I have mentioned in the previous sentence provide an interesting focus that I enjoy tremendously. Generous iris society members have started me on a number of their own favorites as well.

As I continue to think about all of the experiences and fellowship with generous, sympathetic, and understanding irisarians that a utopian garden would have caused me to miss, I grow (no pun intended) even more thankful that my gardens are where they are now! There is no place like home!

Other youth members who entered the 1997 essay contest are William Mohr and Sandy Sekuterski of Region 2; Ryan Carter of Region 4; Tracy Adkins of Region 7; Damian Paul DuCoing of Region 12; Beth Hearnberger of Region 13; Matt Brooks, Lauren Charlton, John Cooper, Sara Crawford, Rhonda Garland, Daniel Huelsing, Charisse Kight and Danika King of Region 18;

Amy Frankel of Region 19; and Monica Combrink of Region 22. These essays will be published in the AIS youth newsletter, *The Iris Fan*. Editors of regional publications may wish to reprint these essays in their respective bulletins. Each one is interesting and expresses a unique point of view. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest, and congratulations to the winner, Laura Gibson.

Clarke Cosgrove Nominations Needed

In all 24 regions of the AIS there are people who have volunteered to work in various capacities. While some are "too busy" or unwilling to serve, these people have agreed to perform the extra duties which make the AIS run smoothly. Our RVPs and regional officers, Editors of regional publications, Regional Youth Chairmen, affiliate Presidents and club officers, affiliate Youth Advisors—these workers have plenty to keep them busy, if they take their duties seriously. One of their duties is to write Clarke Cosgrove nominations. In fact, any AIS member may nominate a youth member for this award simply by using the list below as a guide. If regional leaders plan together now, while a youth's activities from bloom season are easily recalled.

Clarke Cosgrove nominations will be written for many deserving youth members. Nearly every region has one or more possible candidates. So please do your part. Won't you?

Youth Achievement Contest Rules

You may find the guidelines listed below helpful when you nominate your favorite AIS youth.

He/She grows a very fine garden of his/her own.

He/She is an active hybridizer.

He/She has contributed to an iris publication.

He/She has helped an iris organization through a committee or activity.

He/She visits local gardens.

He/She has attended regional/national conventions.

He/She is studying to become or is already an AIS Judge.

He/She has promoted irises and/or the AIS to others.

He/She has found new AIS members.

He/She competes enthusiastically in shows.

He/She is involved in scientific experiments with irises.

He/She is interested in various iris classes (beardless, bearded, arils) and sizes (TBs, miniatures, medians, etc).

He/She shows leadership.

If you know an AIS youth member who is active in any of these areas, please nominate that youth! Rules are simple. Any AIS member may nominate any AIS youth member. Entries must be in writing, including the name and age of the youth member, and mailed to Jean E. Morris, 682 Huntley Heights Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021, by January 31, 1998. The Youth Committee will code the entries to conceal identities and send them to a carefully selected panel of judges. Awards will be presented at the AIS National Convention in Denver.

Tips To Nominators: Please use the activity list above as an outline for your nomination, elaborating on each area which applies to your nominee. Try to limit your nomination to a maximum of two pages. A youth may be nominated by more than one person. Feel free to add anything not covered in the list, especially those qualities which make your nominee special. Take as much care and consideration as possible in preparing your nomination. How well you present your nominee to the judges may influence the outcome. ♪

1997 Award Winners



Linda Miller, accepting Presidents Cup
for BANGLES.



Hooker Nichols receives William Mohr
Medal for SOLOMON'S GLORY.

International News

by Clarence Mahan

Top Ten Favorite Irises in New Zealand

IN THE NEW ZEALAND IRIS SOCIETY POPULARITY POLL in 1996, there were actually twelve on the "Top Ten" list. This was because eight irises tied for 5th place, each receiving the same number of points. Tall bearded irises remained the most popular type of iris in New Zealand, receiving 35% of all votes cast. The cultivars that ended up getting the highest number of voting points, however, represent a great diversity of type. So here were the most popular irises in New Zealand last year:

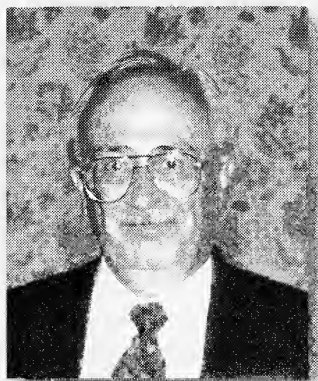
Rank	Name	Hybridizer & Intro Yr	Type of Iris
1.	Butter and Sugar	McEwen '77	Siberian
2.	Windrose	Blyth '89/'90	SDB
3.	Silverado	Schreiner's '87	TB
4.	Kirigamine	Unregistered	Setosa
5.	Loudmouth	Rich '70	AB
	Ingleside	R. Harvey '91	TB
	Pure Allure	Richie '87	SDB
	Harpwell Haze	McEwen '77	Siberian
	Crown Sterling	Moldovan '72	TB
	Silver Edge	McEwen '74	Siberian
	Lucy's Blue Silk	Delaney '86/'87	IB
	Bumblebee Deelite	Norrick '86	MTB

The *Iris setosa* cultivar "Kirigamine" is one of the loveliest I grow. It really should be registered. "Kirigamine" comes from Japan and is named for a famous Japanese mountain. The name means "foggy peak".

The British Iris Society Species Group and an Interesting Iris Species

The Species Group of the British Iris Society has an interesting *Bulletin*, and I always look forward to its arrival in the mail. For

overseas members, the dues are ten pounds for three years. The dues may be submitted to the Treasurer, Mr. Charles Lyte, Carters Corner Place, Cowbeech Rd, nr. Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4HX, England. In the February 1997 issue of the *Bulletin*, there was an interesting item on an iris species not particularly well-known in North America by Mr. Chris Rose, who has been editor for the *Bulletin*.



Clarence Mahan

In Brian Mathew's *The Iris* (London, 1989), the author states that "An unforgettable sight for me when I visited Iran one year was a scattering of clumps of this iris [*Iris imbricata*] amid red oriental poppies on the scree slopes of the high Elburz." For a long time botanists confused the yellow-flowered *Iris imbricata* with *FLAVESCENS* (or *I. flavescens* as it was called in former times). This species is native to Iran and northward into eastern Transcaucasia. Mr. Rose's

article describes his success in growing this species from seed:

"Three seeds of *Iris imbricata*, Item 7 from the BIS 1990/1 seed distribution, recorded as originating from a French source, were obtained in 1991. ...the seeds were soaked and 'peeled', then soaked for several days more— during which time they were rinsed every day or two. I found fingernails were the most easily used tools for getting the seed coat off. Don't worry if you've never done this before, unless the seed inside is rotten and unviable it is generally hard enough not to be damaged by doing this... By these processes the physical barrier of the seed coat and its associated chemical inhibitors of germination are removed as far as is possible with the aim of making it more rapid and even.

"The seeds were sown on 10/2/1991 in a predominantly soil-based...well-drained compost in a plastic pot. They were covered to a depth of 2 – 3mm... The pot was initially kept in an unheated conservatory and put outside in a sunny place on sunny days. All 3 seeds geminated... The second seedling to appear never really

got going and rotted off, which led me to reduce the watering [of the remaining two seedlings].

"The two remaining ones were pricked out into standard-depth 6" plastic pots on 11/6/92... Both flowered for the first time in April 1994... A note of April 22nd extolled the virtues of what I regarded as the 'classically shaped' flowers with 'properly falling and superbly angled falls'..."

It was thought that this description of the experience of growing *I. imbricata* from seed might be useful to others who might like to try it. This could be quite beneficial considering that *I. imbricata* has not been widely used in breeding garden irises.

Dora Sparrow Awarded Festival Crown Plate

The Festival Crown Plate, presented to the New Zealand Iris Society by Anne Blanco White, is awarded by that society for meritorious service. In 1996, this award went to Dora Sparrow, one of the founding members of the New Zealand Iris Society. Ms. Sparrow has held many offices in various iris societies and is widely respected for her expertise in all aspects iris growing, hybridizing and showing. She has hybridized various types of irises, and in particular is known for her work with Pacific Coast Natives. Over the years she has imported many irises to New Zealand for donation to the Christchurch Botanic Garden and other public gardens. A long-time member of AIS, we congratulate Dora on the well-deserved honors bestowed upon her.

Update: Iris Society of Southern Africa

The new Chairman of the Iris Society of Southern Africa, André Buitendag, has advised me that the annual dues in that society for overseas members are \$10.00, plus \$2.00 if you wish to receive the *Bulletin* by airmail. Having had a number of items damaged or lost when surface mail was used, airmail is definitely recommended. André also advised that the many friends of Graeme Morgan may correspond with him at this address: P.O. Box 71, Sterkstroom 5425, South Africa.

Three New Books on Irises from Europe

During my trip to England this spring I was able to obtain three recently published books on irises, all quite excellent for the material covered. If you do not have another means of acquiring these books, most book dealers will special order them for you.

The first book I will mention is in German, and is the work of a superb horticulturist, Susanne Weber. For fifty years, Susanne was the right-hand of Grafen Zeppelin at her famous nursery. Her book is *Iris: Die besten Arten und Sorten für den Garden* (Verlag Eugen Ulmer GmbH & Co, Stuttgart, 1997). The publisher's address is Wollgrasweg 41, 70599 Stuttgart (Hohenheim), Germany. This is a lovely book with 107 beautiful color pictures. Even though I do not read German, I much enjoy looking through this book. It is a book intended for the gardener, not the botanist or the specialist; but the botanist and specialist will find much of interest. It has some excellent garden plans incorporating irises, and a list of European and American nurseries where one can obtain irises.

A Guide to Species Irises, Their Identification and Cultivation (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1997) was produced under the auspices of the The Species Group of the British Iris Society. A number of iris authorities contributed to this monumental work, and I was fortunate enough to get the autographs of several of them in my treasured copy, i.e. Anne Blanco White, Brian Mathew, Nigel Service and Peter Maynard. (Now I shall have to get Jim Waddick to sign it also, since he wrote the section on *Iris pariensis*.) There are a nice selection of color plates and some excellent maps by William R. Killens and line drawings by Christabel King. This is the definitive modern monograph on the subject. No one who wants to be an iris "expert" can be without this wonderful book.


The third book I found this spring is *The Gardener's Guide to Growing Irises* by Geoff Stebbings. This book was published jointly this year by David & Charles Publishers (UK) and Timber Press (USA). Geoff Stebbings is currently Features Editor of the Royal Horticultural Society's journal *The Garden*. With this sort of credential it is surely redundant to say that this book on irises is

very well written. There are chapters on all types of irises and such topics as hybridizing, using irises as cut flowers, landscaping with irises and cultivation. This book has many useful appendices and many attractive color plates. A lovely work.

Hadlow, 1997

What can I say? For those of us fortunate enough to attend the 75th anniversary fete of the British Iris Society at Hadlow in Kent, the garden of England, it was a marvelous experience. The tours were educational and delightful. The programs arranged by the British Iris Society were first-rate. The courtesies and kindness of our hosts were beyond any reasonable expectation. Most of us who attended this convention combined our attendance with a visit to the Chelsea flower show, about which I will only say that I now know what paradise must be.

Everyone was apologetic because a late freeze had damaged many irises and delayed bloom beyond normal expectations. But there were many irises to be seen in glorious gardens. I was fortunate enough to take the tour to Wisley with the learned Ray Jeffs as a guide. Many of the American median irises on trial there were doing quite well, and Dick Sparling's beautiful white border bearded iris ALLENDALE (1989) was near perfection.

The work that the Kent Group put into the planning and conduct of this convention was thoroughly evident. Thelma Naylor who served as registrar deserves a special thank you. The efforts she made to assist overseas visitors were extraordinary. Berney and Alice Baughen surely deserve a gold medal for their many contributions. To the fine people in the Kent Group who worked on this affair: "Thank you!" To the British Iris Society: "Happy 75th Birthday!" 

Late Announcement:

The Bylaws Revision passed by 98% of votes cast.

International Iris Competition

Florence Italy, 1997

Tall Bearded

- 1st Premio Firenze (Gold Fiorin) of the Tourist Organisation:
CHAMPAGNE WALTZ (Schreiner, U.S.A.)
- 2nd Tuscany Region Cup: GYPSY ROMANCE (Schreiner, U.S.A.)
- 3rd Silver Plate of the Industrial Organisation:
HOSTESS ROYALE (Barry Blyth, Australia)
- 4th Italian Iris Society Silver Medal 'Piero Bargellini':
FRISON-ROCHE (Cayeux, France)
- 5th Honourable Mention: UPSIDE DOWN (Niswonger, U.S.A.)
- 6th HM: COMPETITIVE EDGE (Cooley's Garden, U.S.A.)
- 7th HM: COLETTE THURILLET (Cayeux, France)
- 8th HM: DOROTHEA MARGUART (Sterling Innerst, U.S.A.)
- 9th HM: PERO BARGELLINI (Augusto Bianco, Italy)
- 10th HM: CANNONBALL (Schreiner, U.S.A.)

Special Prizes

- Comune di Firenze Silver Plate for the *Best Red Variety*:
TABARRO (Silvano Volani, Italy)
- Chamber of Commerce Cup for the *Best Commercial Variety*:
HOSTESS ROYALE (Barry Blyth, Australia)
- Amici dei Fiori Cup for the *Best Italian Variety*:
PIERO BARGELLINI (Augusto Bianco, Italy)
- Louise Branch Cup for the *Best Branched Variety*:
CHAMPAGNE WALTZ (Schreiner, U.S.A.)
- Florence Garden Club Cup for the *Most Original Colour*:
COLETTE THURILLET (Cayeux, France)
- Perugia Garden Club Cup for the *Best Scented Variety*:
VINACCIA (Stefano Gigli, Italy)
- Rora and Luciano Bausi Silver Plate for the *Best Deep Blue Variety*:
CONTINUITY (Sterling Innerst, U.S.A.)
- Piaggio Cup for the *Best Early Variety*:
DOROTHEA MARGUART (Sterling Innerst, U.S.A.)
- Arezzo Garden Club Prize for the *Best Late TB Variety of 1997*:
GYPSY ROMANCE (Schreiner, U.S.A.)
- Collodi Garden Cup for the *Best Border Bearded Iris*:
CARENZA (Robert Nichol, Great Britain)
- Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze Prize for the European, not Italian,
Hybridizer with the Best Variety in the First Five: CAYEUX (France)

Design Corner

Table Accessories

by Carolyn Hawkins

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND CREATIVE flower arranging has been a mystery to many and some would like to put each in a specific niche and be done with it. What I hope to do in this article is show you the differences in word and picture. Remember, though that a mystery and a vagueness can be just as exciting and dramatic so take heed that when you review the comparisons you take these guidelines "with a grain of salt" and apply some of your own good instinct to your flower designs. The comparisons are an adaptation of prepared sheets that Hallie Brown authored (a National Council Design Instructor in Schools and Symposiums) and come from her years of experience with design and the theory thereof.

Traditional

1. Container is to hold water and plants and is not dominant. The container is traditional

2. Plant material is usually more delicate and more flowers than foliage is used.

3. A more naturalistic placement of the plant material is used. Principles of design should be used.

4. Design has no crossing lines and is restricted by traditional geometric patterns like the triangle, oval, etc.

Creative

1. Container can be dominant and may even be of a sculptural quality and very creative in design. May or may not hold water.

2. Exotic and bolder flowers and foliage may be used.

3. Naturalistic placement can be used *but* plant material can be positioned anywhere and principles of design is used.

4. May have crossed lines to capture spaces and is *not* bound by traditional geometric patterns or styles.

5. Has one focal area where the material emerges from the container. (Remember this as it may be a problem you cannot recognize when you are aware SOMETHING is wrong but you don't know what it is.)

6. Uses large amounts of plant material in the mass designs and transitional "filler" material with gradation in size and color to obtain rhythm.

7. A traditional mass design has no spaces in it even though it should not be "packed." This is called a closed silhouette.

8. These designs are placed in a particular location and designed for that space. There are more solid components that spaces (see No. 7)

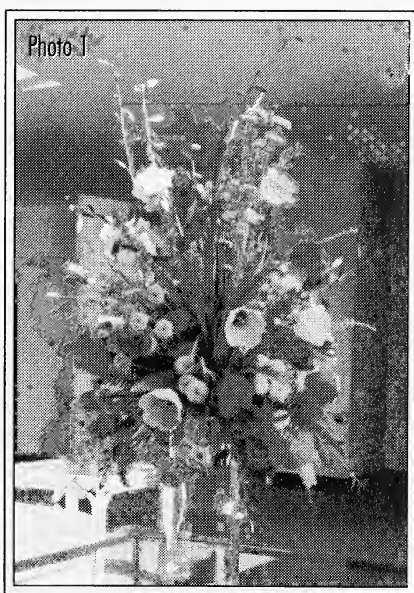
5. May have more than one point of emergence and more than one focal area.

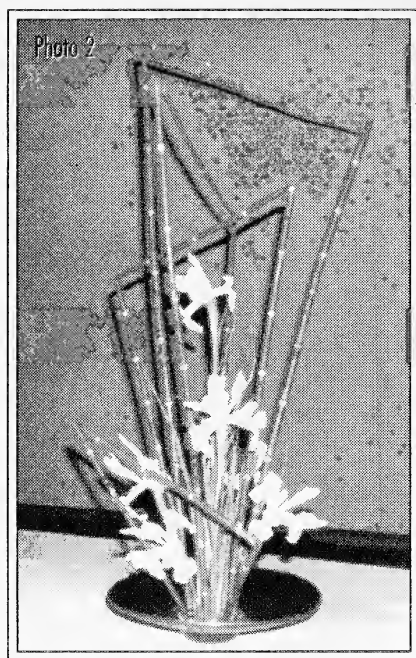
6. Restraint in the use of plant material and transitional material is not used. Spaces become a part of the design.

7. A creative design can have the feeling of a closed silhouette by having the open and closed spaces *within* the design.

8. This is a design that interacts *with* space and has great depth and volume. There will be more spaces than solids generally.

The following designs are provided to help illustrate the above comparisons. Photo 1 is a very traditional line mass design with flowers emerging from one point. Equisetum (horse tail) is the line material and bulbous iris have been used to fit into the spaces provided by the geometric forms created by bending the Equisetum. Not many flowers have been used by you still clearly have a traditional design. This design was created by Jo Krallman of Benton, Arkansas.





In Photo 2 the mass design is again a closed silhouette but not packed in. A large amount of flowers were used and some Dutch iris are scattered within the design. Note that within the clear container no stems are seen. It is difficult to make stems look attractive and this design was built in a cage enclosing oasis and then placed on top of the clear container (which has been turned upside down to provide a flat top). This design was done by Jeannine Row of Roswell, Georgia.

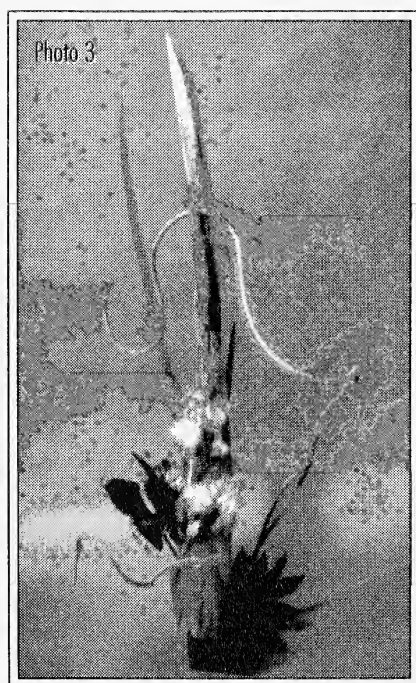


Photo 3 is a creative design by Suzanne Doughtie of Duluth, Georgia and clearly shows the open spaces referred to above. Restraint by using only 2 tall bearded iris, and a small amount of dramatic foliage with the vines creating the rhythmic line, completes the design. There really is no container as the driftwood is mounted on a rod that has been inserted into a block of wood. A needlepoint cup holder holds the flowers and foliage and is placed behind the block.

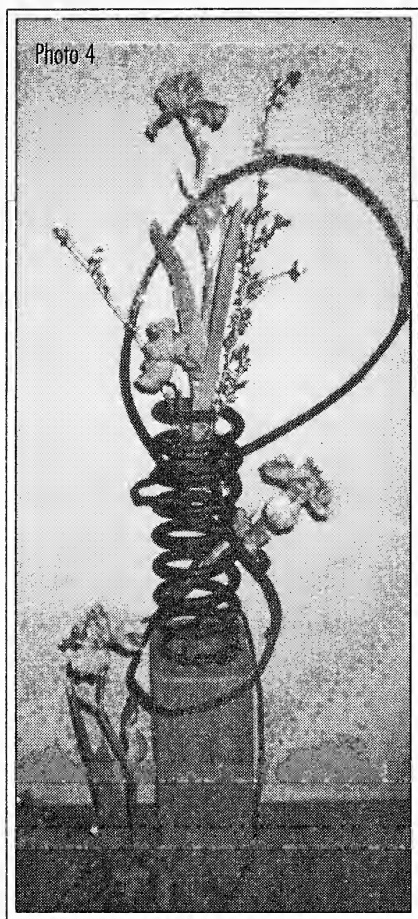


Photo 4 shows tall bearded iris emerging from several different points and spaces created by the vines. The container is a spring with needle cup holders used for the water source. One iris is in a water tube so it can be inserted in the spring. This design was done by Joe Scott Watson of Milledgeville, Georgia.

Comparison pictures are worth a thousand words and I hope this has helped explain the differences. Many of you have asked for more reference books on design. Again, using the easy 800 number at the National Council of State Garden Clubs Headquarters you can order *At Home With Flowers* (about \$15) and another excellent new publication, *Creative Flower Arranging* by Betty Belcher (about \$30). Both are paperback and will help you come up with some terrific ideas for designs for your home, and the flower show. Just call (800) 550-6007 and give them your order. If you have any questions please contact me at 7329 Kendel Ct., Jonesboro, GA 30236. 🌸

'97 Convention Gardens

*Reviews from the
1997 National Convention*

Overview

by *Lerry Aitken*

SACH YEAR, THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY GATHERS AT a predetermined location to conduct the business of the Society, provide educational and promotional programs and to view the latest and greatest irises that the world has to offer. It is an excellent opportunity to meet people with whom you communicate or have heard about all year long. Further communications become much more meaningful when you know the real person on the other end. These conventions are the responsibility of the host Society, not the National organization, because of the many logistical decisions that must be made, and for the financial outcome implicit in these plans.

Timing and guesswork is everything! A meeting and banquet facility must be selected several years in advance for an unknown number of attendees. Guest gardens and gardeners must be selected three years before tour time to handle a nebulous number of guest irises (probably three thousand, more or less), and someone must coordinate the arrival, distribution and ultimately the disposal of these plants.

Last minute decisions include fine tuning of tour buses and food caterers. Conventioneers are avid eaters! Figuring 2-3 cookies per garden, a large turnout ranging from 400 to 1000 people can cause stress for the overworked garden owners. Convention planning is an exhilarating, challenging experience for the whole team.

After a mild climate convention of 1996, our attention in 1997 shifted to the Great Lakes of central North America, the land of ice and snow. The irises that shine here will be the truly durable.

Our thanks to the Iris Club of Southeast Michigan,

coordinated by Ann Cline. The convention facilities were outstanding and even the weather, begrudgingly, cooperated. Conventioneers arrived in drenching rain which, combined with a cold spring, had held back bloom season at least two weeks. But on bus tour days, we were greeted by sparkling sunshine, no wind, and beautiful, mild temperatures. Bloom was plentiful and in excellent condition, except for those who chose to see only Tall Bearded. We were able to see all categories of bearded iris and a remindful scattering of Siberians. This was a well rounded convention indeed.

The Calhoun Garden

by Ada Godfrey

BEHIND THE LOVELY HOME OF BOB AND DONNA CALHOUN, ON a quiet residential street in Royal Oak, Michigan, is a garden reflecting individual talents. The Calhoun's teenage daughter, Jennie, painted the AIS Convention logo on the side of the garage—a very professional job. Andrea at 13 had helped Dad make the tree house which Tristan, 8, and Alexis, 5, will be able to climb to when their legs are long enough to reach the rungs of the ladder! Timbered beds filled with irises reflect Donna's interest in beardless as well as bearded irises. A major plus of the convention was Earl Hall's plant signs—large and easy to read. Good plant labels make all the difference.

Spring in Michigan was no different from spring in New England—late and very mixed up. We were able to admire a great clean clump of the MDB BETWIXT (Willot '87) while yards away, Siberian, PLEASURES OF MAY (Schafer/Sacks '95) showed its dainty pink and white blossoms on well branched straight stalks.

The Siberians were so well grown here. Aitken's seedling, 88SIRD, (HIGH DI, '95) formed a really nice clump, and we had to stop to admire SG-1, Dana Borglum's flaring dark red Siberian seedling. Hollingworth's STRAWBERRY FAIR ('94) was doing very well here in its home state, and CORONATION ANTHEM ('90) looked gorgeous in a large rounded clump full budded with

stalks well interspersed throughout the foliage. ROARING JELLY ('92), Schaefer/Sacks raspberry and blue Siberian was lovely, and SPRINKLES (Bauer-Coble '94) was great with its upright foliage.

It was too early to see blossom on Schreiner's tall bearded seedling CC139-B, but what a classy clump with clean foliage and what stalks! We did see SPIRIT WORLD ('94) in blossom, that gorgeous TB luminata by Keith Keppel. Evelyn Jones' lovely seedling 92-16-2, was an intense orange intermediate bearded with loads of stalks with opening blossoms. Her seedling 92-1-1, was a lovely dusky pink with lavender at the base of the standards with lavender beards tipped orange. Both were favorites with the garden visitors and must-haves when they are available.

We were attracted to Kasperek's unique seedling 92N44S (GNU RAYZ '97) a yellow ground plicata IB with purple ray pattern. Hal Stahly's seedling 94-7 and TB BALTIC STAR ('94) while not in bloom got a triple stars in my convention book for well rounded clumps with clean foliage and straight stalks. Others which received gold stars for clump form and foliage were MESCAL ('96), a TB by Jim Craig, and TB MAGIC PALETTE ('97) by Chun Fan.

Cayeux irises have always fascinated me with their distinctive colors and patterns, and both PARISIEN and DOUBLE ESPAIR were lovely looking plants with clean foliage, which I've made a note to look for when they're introduced.

There were big, well grown clumps of tall bearded BEVERLY SILLS (Hager '79) in bud; ASK ALMA (Lankow '87), an IB, was lovely in pink buds. WAMPUM, Ensminger '82, IB, was a gorgeous deep wine red with that lovely blue flash under the bronze beards. One I've missed somehow but is on my list to get is WILLOW WARE, an IB by Ensminger, ('89). It was a neat, rounded plant with clean stalks, the white standards above softly rounded blue falls edged white. NEW IDEA ('70), Hager's mulberry tetraploid MTB looked so dainty and was so well branched.

Finally, at the very bottom of the garden is what every good gardener has—a compost heap. I smiled when I saw

GRAPESICLE, 1982, a New England SDB by Bob Sobek, had been planted around a fence which hid the compost pile. Good planning, Donna. GRAPESICLE is such a rampant grower nobody will ever notice what is behind it!

The Cline Garden

by George Sutton

OUR PLANE'S APPROACH TO THE DETROIT AIRPORT DID NOT bode well for a good convention. I've flown many flights, including four years in the Air Force, and this was the first time I could not see the runway until we touched down. Total cloud cover and torrential rain! The ensuing taxi ride to the Hyatt Regency wasn't any better, and the driver was saying there were four more days of rain in the forecast!

However, the next morning was beautiful. The sun was shining and the sky was blue. We were hoping the sunshine wasn't wasted on "Bored" meetings. It wasn't!

Our sponsor, Region 6, and our host, The Iris Club of Southeast Michigan put on unmatched organization and hospitality, lovely gardens and 7:30AM bus loading. Thank you! One could hunt almost endlessly for superlatives to describe the convention.

The Cline garden in Royal Oak was a perfect place to relax after a full morning and a filling lunch. We were greeted graciously by the "Cline Clan", Ann, her mother Audine and her grandchildren Jacob and Amanda. Taking my wife Margaret by the hand and walking rapidly past the Cline's garage boutique, we arrived in the back garden. Its tall trees and attractive shrubbery made a pleasant background for the curving iris beds, with attractive Johnny Jump-up borders. It was here that we saw the first tall bearded guest iris on the tour, FANCY WOMAN (Keppel '95) [see photo inside back cover of July Bulletin—Editor.], truly a fancy lady decked out in ruffled French lilac edged pearl with a velvet finish and a showy orange beard. I counted 11 stalks on this two year clump.

This convention turned out to be a median muster, especially of MTBs. In the refreshment area sat a large container of the

MTB CHICKEE (Dunderman '80) in a mass of ruffled yellow bloom. In a side bed next to the fence was the IB rebloomer (in California) JOHN (Ensminger '90) in a huge display of wavy gold and brown. The old faithful rebloomer QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall '84) was blooming the best stalk I have seen the queen produce. Nearby the IB MAUI MOONLIGHT (Aitken '87) was showing a very attractive wavy sea of yellow. In the center of the garden Jacob and Amanda were sitting in their deck chairs, patiently watching their own particular irises. Amanda's IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82) had just opened, while Jacob's VIOLET RETURNS (Hall '88) was showing color. In the far back in an area that retains water was a cleverly designed bog garden with many beardless irises growing robustly, but still far from flowering. Though there were few blooms, it was still a pleasing and lovely garden.

I truly hope that sometime we will be able to return to this lovely garden and again enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the "Cline Clan". Thanks to the Clan from all the convention guests.

The Hughes Garden

by Shirley Dope

IT WAS OBVIOUS WHEN OUR BUS PULLED UP IN FRONT OF THE Mill Creek Gardens of Howard and Kim Hughes that Mother Nature has been playing games again. We were about two weeks early. The gardens were beautifully groomed and edged, but, there wasn't the expected (tall bearded) bloom.

The SDBs were in bloom and the first one I saw was Carl Boswell's SEEING ORCHID. The Willott's SDBs MOLTEN LAVA and ICE AND INDIGO, (white with deep blue spot) were also blooming beautifully. SKIDDLE, an SDB by Sterling Innerst, mid blue with a stunning purple fall spot, was also putting on a show, and ORANGE TIGER, SDB of Bennett Jones made a bright spot in the Median iris bed.

A raised bed in the middle of the back yard was filled with Siberian irises, that would obviously be spectacular, later, in full bloom. This garden was partly shaded by a large basswood tree.

Along the side of the house was a guest bed that had Terry

Varner's MTB seedling V-350, a well branched pretty blue, putting on a good show. Jim and Vicki Craig's lavender bitone MTB, LITTLE MISTY, was also well branched and had a crisp, perky appearance. Terry Aitken's MTB, APRICOT DROPS was in bloom and many of us were admiring the smooth apricot color. But Allan Ensminger's SDB, VAVOOM wiped out the other irises in this garden. Your eyes were instantly drawn to this little intense yellow bitone. Evidently other conventioners felt the same way, because it won the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup. BANGLES, Lynda Miller's amethyst/blue blend MTB, was also blooming in this garden. It won the President's Cup.

The Hughes have lived in this house for ten years, been growing irises for six years, and have had a commercial garden for four years. Howard has been hybridizing the past three years and has some nice seedlings coming along.

All the gardens had to be built up with loam because of the rock-hard clay that was impossible to cultivate. The beautiful stones edging the gardens came from a chimney that Howard helped tear down. Howard and Kim plan to move next year to a larger place in this same locale. I'm sure he will again design beautiful gardens to house his extensive iris collection, and I wish them much success.

Besides gardening, Howard collects iris plates and Kim has a large, beautifully displayed collection of Fenton glass. I thoroughly enjoyed this garden and look forward to meeting the Hughes again at future conventions.

Hughes Garden of Paula Brown & David Freeman

by Barbara Schmieder

SPRING WAS VERY LATE IN MICHIGAN THIS YEAR AND FEW OF the convention guests were blooming in the gardens. Fortunately, most of the gardens had their own collections of median irises, plus some median guests, so there were irises to be seen. This made the median iris lovers happy and probably contributed to converting some people to the median classes. The garden of Paula Brown and her son David Freedman had plenty of medians,

starting with a nice clump of Mary Louise Dunderman's MTB classic, ROSEMARY'S DREAM, planted near the street in a rock-bordered bed containing other median irises. This beautiful rose and white plicata doesn't show its years, even though it was introduced in 1982, a long time ago in the iris world.

The Hughes Garden was a long established commercial garden in Royal Oak, Michigan, and was operated by Francis and Gertrude Hughes during their lifetimes. When Paula bought it, she also acquired their collections of irises, daylilies, trilliums, daffodils and many other plants. Son David is a landscaper and between the two of them, every inch of space (well, just about—there are paths left to walk on!) has been planted with some variety of living thing. Near the porch on the side of the house there is a lilac with pink and white bleeding hearts in front. On the other side of the porch steps is a rock garden containing many varieties of sedum. Walk around back and you'll find a small pond planted with yellow water lilies, papyrus, and water-loving irises: Louisiana's, versicolors and pseudacorus. In front of the pond are Siberian irises and allium giganteums.

One convention guest that was creating a lot of interest was a seedling of Brad Kasperek, #92-N44S (introduced this year as GNU RAYZ). This well branched IB was seen in several of the gardens and was performing well in all of them. It is a cream background with grape plicata edging and veining, beards blue, tipped bronze.

Another convention guest noted was Richard Cayeux's intermediate, BEL AZUR, blooming short (which could be as a result of the cold, late season) but a lovely mid blue with white beards. Other IBs seen were SHELL CAMEO (Willott '83), a white and beige plicata; CHATTERBOX (Schreiner '78), a nice white and raspberry plicata that I don't remember ever having seen before; COUNTRY DEEJAY (Lankow '79), a red with iris aphylla in its background; MAUI MOONLIGHT (Aitken '87), the great lemonade-colored iris that can be identified without a marker; and, to the delight of Carl Boswell, who hadn't seen it in many years, his SARANAP ('80), oyster white with yellow hafts. There were last blooms on some of the SDBs, MICHAEL PAUL

(W. Jones '79), a classic very dark purple; and GRAPESICLE (R. Sobek '82), a violet with bright purple spot.

The front of the house was landscaped by David, with the major plants being the lilac SENSATION (unusual in that the wine-red blooms are edged in white), ostrich ferns, and goutweed. A Japanese maple, planted three years ago at 1½ feet is now 8 feet tall, with a spread of 12 feet. David is proudest of the double white lilac, which was on the property when it was bought, and was successfully transplanted by him to the front corner this past year. This mother-son combination garden has much interesting plant material and would be enjoyable to visit during any season.

The Kindermann Garden

by Peter Weixlmann

MANY A GARDEN VISIT LEAVES A SPECIFIC IMPRESSION; THE flowers, the placement of plantings, the flow of the garden, the movement of light and shadow, the fellow tourees, the hospitality of the garden hosts. Time passes, recollections fade, but certain attributes are rekindled by memory. For me, when I think of the Kindermann garden I vividly recall the warm sunny day, lazy clouds drifting above and the bounty of sweet fragrances wafting to greet the visitors.

The star jasmine on the rear deck caused the passersby to pause and inhale the heady scent and gaze across the man-made lake bordering the rear edge of the property. The perfect setting for the owners' private collection of favorite iris terraced along the right property side. The marvelous soft yellow clump of IB MAUI MOONLIGHT (Aitken '87), the MTB BELL RINGER (Cook '86), the white SDB SERENITY PRAYER (Dyer '89) and Keppel's TB FILM FESTIVAL ('93) seemed to be the visual personification of the various notes of perfume from the white lilac at the top of the bed.

The left side of the garden provided cooling shade, a small but well grown hosta collection, the refreshing scent of pine and a vista of the entire layout of the back garden. The rock garden below the deck was chock full of interesting sedum and alpines.

The front garden was completely overwhelming. Long display beds held the extensive personal daylily collection, great numbers of astilbes, Asiatic and Oriental lilies as well as the guest iris planting. Borders of pansies delineated the edges and gazing globes of amethyst and emerald punctuated the statuary collection that the Kindermanns are fond of. The bloom was going to be impressive in about a week, but a few irises graced us with their presence. STEFFIE (Fisher '93), MTB, was just about perfection in white with blue accent on the falls. Aitken's MTB APRICOT DROPS ('95) provided a smooth, soft appearance as did his pink amoena IB, SMITTEN KITTEN ('91).

The TBs in bloom were few in this garden, but CITRON FROMAGE (Rogers '95) had 2 branches, 9 buds and is an intense yellow amoena with a delightful fragrance of honey licorice. This was truly the perfect opportunity for Terry Aitken's flowers to show off, as his ISLAND SURF was one of the few other TBs in bloom! The ruffled almost reverse blue bitone set off many a camera shutter and deservedly so. There was also a nice clump of John Weiler's raspberry and white plicata TB AUTUMN TRYST ('93) just coming into bloom.

My other favorite memory of the Michigan Convention is that these people had been through the coldest May on record and had lived through torrents of rain, flooded gardens and the harsh realization that bloom would be extremely light; yet they were the warmest, most gracious hosts any Conventioneer could ever hope for. Thank you one and all. WELL DONE!

"The Stone Lady's Garden" ***Carol Morgan Garden***

by Ruth & Jim Burke

Upon entering the Morgan garden, you are invited to look for the Stone Lady. There are actually two of them; concrete castings of Grecian like statuary, painted a green shade to look like aged copper or bronze, with a lovely patina. Both were artfully placed among the garden plantings. Carol's home is on about an acre of ground in a beautiful suburban setting. Behind the house what was once a weed covered hillside was transformed by Carol and

her son Joe into a gently terraced area with plantings of irises, clumps of spring flowers and wild flowers, which Carol confesses are her special passion. After the terracing was completed, Carol said the good top soil was buried under four feet of “Flint cement” clay, and it took twenty years of sand, leaves and other organic materials to create today’s garden soil!

Bloom in Michigan was sparse due to the very cold, wet spring. There weren’t many TBs, but many spectacular medians which ordinarily are not seen this late in the season. FILM FESTIVAL (Keppel ’93) TB, looked especially good with its rosy standards, salmon falls edged red raspberry and sporting a bright orange beard. Walter Moore’s TB CONFEDERATE ROYALTY (’97) was another eye-catcher with gray standards and royal purple falls underscoring its name. Beards were golden khaki.

VAVOOM (Ensminger ’94), SDB was a knockout, and winner of the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup. It had light yellow standards and bright canary yellow falls; a healthy attractive clump with many bloom stalks. There were a number of Dorothy and Tony Willott’s medians on parade, from their SDBs BLACK SUEDE, LIME MIST and RUBY WINGS to an IB which showed beautifully in several gardens, MAGIC BUBBLES, (’94). It is a ruffled and laced coral self with coral beards. Not far away with a spectacular clump of Joe Gatty’s RARE EDITION (’80), a classic purple white plicata IB. BOUQUET MAGIC (Craig ’93) had compact flowers with light blue standards and maroon purple falls shading to lilac at the edges. An IB, LEMON POP (Lauer ’91) was a clean, bright lemon self, growing very well here with healthy green foliage.

MYSTIC GLOW (Fisher ’95) MTB sports clear yellow standards, creamy falls and a yellow beard, was well branched and blooming nicely above the rich green, healthy foliage. An IB I hadn’t seen before was SIGNET RING (Magee, no year of introduction), a rich wine with creamy fall spot.

Carol pointed out a favorite specimen of *I. typhofolia* (species *siberica*) growing in a neat clump with blue purple blossoms swaying above the arched foliage. She is also trying her hand at hybridizing a few tall bearded. Before leaving, we were treated

to a view of two windows in her home. One was a lovely stained glass created by her daughter Angela Pruitt. The second was a sand blasted, acid etched work of art featuring a Japanese iris created by Bob Bauer and John Coble.

Our thanks go to the Iris Club of Southeast Michigan who provided such a warm welcome, wonderful hospitality and outstanding gardens! I would also like to thank my wife, Ruth, who not only took extensive notes, but also helped me with color descriptions for this article.

Garden of Margaret Perdue

by Karen Bergamo

The bus parked down the street, so we had a few houses to walk past to reach this delightful garden. It was a clear, cool, breezy beautiful morning, just right for a short walk. The group all stopped in front to admire the "oldies but goodies", DAUNTLESS (DM'29), THE RED DOUGLAS (DM'41), COPPER LUSTRE (DM'38), SAN FRANCISCO (DM'27), WABASH (DM'40).

There were many lovely Miniature Tall Bearded looking outstanding in this garden. SLIM JIM (Williams '78) was a light violet with some white, giving a rosy effect. FLASHING BEACON (Guild '69) was an unique blended color of yellow orange over gray-purple falls with a wide tangerine orange beard. AACHEN ELF (Kennedy '84) was yellow with lavender falls edged yellow; a very good looking color combination. DOLL RIBBONS (Dunderman '77) was a nice purple-white plicata. I liked CONCORD CAFÉ (Boswell '82), which had tan standards speckled light maroon and white falls dusted dark maroon with maroon edges. We saw BETTINA (Dunderman '81), white with orchid pink plicata markings, and CAROLYN ROSE (Dunderman '70) in the same rosy pink plicata pattern. LISETTS (Dunderman '86) was a soft lovely orchid with white beard. One of my favorites was BOLD IMP (Fisher '93) with its red brown standards, deep red falls and bright orange beard. DAPPLED PONY (Witt '80) was not just another plicata but a really striking white with purple markings. IN FASHION (Fisher '94) was a strong, smooth purple with white beards that really stood out.

The Intermediates had their fair share of show-offs too. COUNTRY DANCE (E. Jones '97) was a beautiful rose pink with tangerine beards tipped blue; VERSE (Gatty '78), a lovely violet with red violet fall spot and blue beards tipped bronze. I loved the French blue color of BOLD STROKE (E. Jones '92) with its blue black beards.

We were fortunate to see some TBs; ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew '91), a violet with a white beard, (which reblooms in my area of the country), and EPICENTER (Ghio '94) with its black cherry standards and salmon falls dotted black cherry was striking and beautiful. Ghio's ROMANTIC EVENING ('94) had lilac blue standards over blackish purple falls and a deep brick red beards which really set this flower apart from the others. Chun Fan's KNOTS LANDING ('93), standing tall and proud in the garden, was a greenish white with orange yellow beards.

We were treated to one Siberian, PLEASURES OF MAY (Schafer/Sacks '95) which was a light and lovely white tinted lavender. This garden had beauty tucked here and there. The double columbines were lovely, as were the snapdragons and forget-me-nots. There were strawberries, not yet in season, a beautiful little blue spruce and a huge old maple tree for shade. There were statues and a scarecrow; painted wooden irises, wind chimes and proverbs. All added to the delightful feeling in this garden.

This convention will long be remembered for the beautiful medians we saw. It was a very special and thoroughly enjoyable convention, and this garden was a prime example of why we'd SAY YES TO MICHIGAN again.

The Stahly Garden

by Bennett Jones

THE RED CARPET WAS OUT FOR US WHEN WE REACHED THE Stahly garden, and that is to be taken literally—there was a red carpet to lead us through their garden gate where we were welcomed even more warmly by Dorothy and Hal Stahly.

I was in their garden when the convention was previously held in Michigan in 1977. Then I found the garden full of guest irises

and seedlings at peak bloom. One in particular stood out, an imposing flower, white with a yellow flush at the base of the standards and the hafts. Raised by their son John, and named SUN KING, it held its own in the iris world for a respectable time. It was good to talk with John twenty years later and to remind him of SUN KING.

There were to be no tall bearded irises in bloom this time; the weather determined this was to be a Median iris convention, and even they were just beginning to bloom.

First to attract my attention was Hal's new WRANGLER ('97), a red violet IB. Bright and clear in color, the well formed flowers were carried on nicely branched stalks on a good plant. It's a lovely color unusual in median irises, usually being found elsewhere such as Schreiner's TBs THRILLER and MULBERRY PUNCH. Vicki and Jim Craig's LITTLE MISTY ('90), was performing here and in other gardens as near to being ideal as one could wish in the Median group of irises - beautiful in balance between the size of foliage, height of its stalks, branching and the size of its flowers. Standards were pale grayed lavender, the falls medium lavender blue. Only twice in my history of attending conventions have I found standard dwarf irises in bloom, and in the Stahly garden it was Allan Ensminger's VAVOOM ('94) which stole the show and the hearts of those attending the convention, for it was awarded the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup, the first time for an SDB to do so. Precisely tailored flowers with standards of uranium green and falls bright canary yellow were carried on stems well above the foliage and in numbers to indicate its vigor. Dave Niswonger's WRONG SONG ('95) was performing well, showing off three flowers to the stalk in what I call art colors. Violet standards with an infusion of brown at their edges. Falls were brown with an edging of white. Attractive in color and form. BOLD STROKE (Evelyn Jones '93), an eye catching IB of medium blue with blue-black beards, drew its fair share of attention, exhibiting flowers on well branched stalks above healthy foliage.

A nice collection of perennials promised bloom after the irises were gone and adding interest while they were in bloom. A large

flowered deep orange trollius was most attractive. A few native trees underplanted with well chosen varieties of hostas offered an aura of quiet beauty. A weeping pine, twenty feet tall with branches weeping to the ground was a focal point. I enjoyed being there again.

Van Heusden Garden

by Carol Warner

LIKE MANY OF US, JOHN AND MARIE ANN VAN HEUSDEN were hooked on irises by visiting a show at a mall. They started growing irises six years ago on part of their five acre parcel of land, the site of John's one-time nursery business. Four years ago they put in the display beds and began preparing the "guest beds". The guest plants were very well grown with loads of stalks that would be in bloom over the next couple weeks. Some of the local members had helped with the garden and the Van Heusden's son, John, was present to help answer questions and assist the conventioners.

Convention years always bring some challenges so the State decided to put a new water line through the front of the Van Heusden's property. It was projected to go through one of the guest beds but John was able to convince Michigan authorities to move it 22 feet closer to the road and use a culvert. All the fresh construction was evident but the irises were left untouched.

The SDBs and IBs stole the show. A fantastic clump of PRINCE OF BURGUNDY (Niswonger '92) had at least eight stalks with 2 - 3 blooms per stalk. This burgundy and white plicata might have been a bit tall for an IB but there had been copious amounts of rain in Michigan.

Bennett Jones' ORANGE TIGER drew admiration from across the garden. The first outcross from Bennett's pink SDB line gave ORANGE TIGER '93 and Bennett never got back to the pink line again. What a bright color! An IB, 92-13-2 by Evelyn Jones was lovely. I noted it as a warm peach with a deeper spot and rose veining extending from a tangerine beard.

Some of the guests from Jim and Vicki Craig were very interesting. The small flowered TB named BOUQUET MAGIC

looked like a superb landscape plant. Their IB's SAILING FREE was a pleasing lavender and purple bitone and PASSAGE, a deep purple, had nice wide hafts for the IB class.

ALADDIN'S FLAME (Virginia Messick '93) was an attractive shade of brass with a blue beard. HARLEM NOCTURNE (Willott '93) is a cute black SDB with a blue beard.

Old standbys like MAUI MOONLIGHT, PARTURIENT, JEWEL BABY, BLESSED AGAIN, and COUNTRY DJ gave wonderful clumps of color to the garden. Three clumps of SALLIE LIGHTFOOT, a blue violet MTB by Jean Witt were growing in the very front corner of the yard. They were ideal landscape irises with exceptionally good proportion.

A shade garden in the rear of the house was alive with color from the bleeding heart, hosta, violets, azalea and lupines.

Our visit to "Adrian's Iris Meadows", named because John's real first name is Adrian, was a treat.

The Detroit Zoo Garden

by Terry Aitken

In 1990 Keith McNames initiated the effort to establish an iris display garden at the Detroit Zoo. The curving beds formed a circle and included all of the Dykes Medal winners from 1927 to 1990; representatives from many different iris categories, including a set of historical irises purchased by Keith from the HIPS section, and finally, the convention guest iris beds.

As time and luck would have it, the plants in bloom during the four days of the 1997 AIS convention were the historical irises, and it represented an educational treat for the garden visitors.

The image of NA RAIN (Shuber '36) is a tall, thin stemmed, well branched purple, and illustrates well the impact that hybridizers have had over the past fifty years. Compare this plant with TITAN'S GLORY? Hats off to hybridizers! A short, bright yellow, ZANTHA (O. Fay '47) was interesting because of the feathered petal edges. Was this the forerunner of lace? Perhaps this is a subject for further investigation. Another interesting specimen was GOLDFISH (R. 1925), with almost aril form (large

domed standards and tuck under falls), done in a tan to faint peach color with a bright orange beard and heavy purple rays overlaid on the falls. Was this the forerunner of pinks and oranges? Apparently not, but the barn door is open for another research project.

Another early hybrid showing off was MEXICANA (1859), out of variegatas. Nicely proportioned flowers had bright yellow standards; white falls overlaid with raspberry veins.

The plicatas were particularly interesting for their evolutionary progress. LOS ANGELES (Mohr '27) represents an early example of plicatas with a hint of purple rim pattern. GIBSON GIRL (J. Gibson '48), a brown rimmed plicata, shows considerable progress in pattern definition. Finally, there stood JESSE'S SONG (Williamson '83), a modern TB, well branched, full flowered—the epitome of elegant plicata development.

Among the guest irises, Schreiner's seedling BB1814-A formed an imposing clump with 11 buds on a stem, dramatic orange standards, bright orange beards and near black falls.

With Keith McNames' move to the Northwest, Margaret Dickson became the new *Zoo Czar*, with much assistance from the Iris Club of Southeast Michigan. Keep up the good work! 🌸

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Post Convention

Garden Reviews

[Due to ever unpredictable weather, the convention was a bit early for peak bloom on TBs this year. Here are a couple reviews of convention garden bloom after the convention was over. - Editor]

Royal Rainbow Gardens

by Ann Cline

ONE ADVANTAGE I NOTICED DURING THE CONVENTION WITH the weather more than two weeks behind schedule was that more attention was given to the plant, the size of the clump, the shape of the stalks, and the bud count. Also, many visitors were delighted to see the earlier Bearded Classifications and rebloomers in bloom. The Iris Club of Southeast Michigan encourages our members to grow many different classes of Irises for a longer bloom season.

RED SHOCKER by Bill Ginter was the overall winner in my garden. The three stalks of RED SHOCKER had the longest bloom, starting during the convention and continuing to bloom for three weeks. There were two or three buds per socket and ten buds or more per stalk. Its stunning iridescent color stands out across the yard. It is reddish-plum with slightly darker falls and reddish-brown hafts.

Hooker Nichols' Seedling #9542A is another iris that stood out from across the yard. This four foot tall, very stately iris will enhance any landscape. It is a large, ruffled, creamy white self with a lavender overcast. The strong, shapely stalks each had eight buds.

Tom Burseen's BARELY THERE is a misnamed Tall Bearded Iris. While the other iris clumps in the same bed were trying to make it through the "killer winter" we had two years ago, BARELY THERE was thriving. Every time I looked at this abundant clump, even when not in bloom I thought it should have been named "Really There". This light creamy yellow with gray tones has good form, bud count, and bloomed for more than two weeks.

I moved Barbara Berg's HEAPER to a more prominent location in my yard, to accent other plantings. This ruffled, white self with a golden beard tipped yellow is another landscape enhancer.

I really enjoyed Brad Kasperek's irises from Zebra Gardens. GNUS FLASH and SPICED TIGER bloomed with a wild riot of colors that looked like they were splashed on the petals by a three-year-old child.

STARLIT VELVET by Hal Stahly was love at first sight and I have grown it for several years. As a guest iris STARLIT VELVET quickly developed into a beautiful clump. It is a very dark, purple velvet, with a tinge of white at the hafts and a dark bronze beard.

I strongly dislike the color orange in any shade. I tease Hal that it was a conspiracy that four out of his seven guest irises in my yard were orange. But, I will admit that Hal's Seedling #92-13 is a very pretty, ruffled, creamy tangerine self with a bright orange beard. I counted 12 buds on one stalk (see photo, page 66).

John Durrance's Seedling #JRD93WO16 falls under the heading of the most unusual iris I have ever seen. The leaves and clump look like a tall bearded iris and it was listed as a TB. But, the flower looks like a Japanese Iris with six falls and no beard. It has light lavender petals and creamy white styles. If the standards stand up, the bloom looks like a tall bearded iris without a beard. If the standards fall down it looks like a Japanese. One bloom had six falls, three standards and three styles. At first, I thought the standards were weak petals, but I noticed the styles seem to push the standards one way or another.

Favorites at "Stone Lady Garden"

by Carol Morgan

THE HECTIC TOUR DAYS ARE FINISHED, AND AFTER ALL THE conventioners have gone home, the tall bearded irises put on a terrific show! It has been a real challenge to pick out a few favorites to highlight in this article.

RED SHOCKER (Ginter) is still blooming, (on June 28th). It is a very deep, rich, smooth fuchsia red with red-purple beards. The falls are a dead ringer for fine satin; they glow and shimmer

beautifully. **HOT DOGS AND MUSTARD** (Kasperek '95) is so well named. It is a molted coloration similar to **BATIK**, but just the colors of hot dogs and mustard. It's very different than any other variety. Perhaps I like it mostly for its unique pattern. **CHOOSE A JUICE** (Burseen '96) was perhaps my very favorite of the TBs. Its deep apricot color is accented with tasteful raspberry highlights at the hafts. There is also a lovely hint of raspberry color around the end of the falls. The burnt orange beards just add an inner glow.

For some occasions something a little subtle is better. **SENECA BRIDE** (Borglum '95) fits the bill so well. As the name implies, the white ruffles and creamy shading at the hafts evoke bridal images. The gown is complete with lace. A happy bride's inner glow shows in the creamy yellow-orange-that-fades-to-white-beards. When thinking about size, **ALIZES** (Cayeux '91) would take a prize. This beauty has pale blue standards with a wide wash of medium blue accenting the white ground of the falls. It's an eye catcher from way across the garden. Speaking of eye catching, one must certainly be drawn to **SUNCATCHER** (Ensminger '92), a rich, beautifully clear yellow plicata. The clear white falls have greenish veins with the effect of leaded glass, tasteful and complimentary to the flower.

CUSS A BLUE STREAK (D. Miller '93) got my attention because of its name. I watched with great interest to see what earned such a name. The wait was rewarded with a lovely pale blue with a blue streak right down the middle of the wonderfully smooth falls. A cream glow at the hafts helps to highlight the streak. The form is ruffled and elegant. **PEIGNOIR** (Markham '96) reminded me of **PINK BUBBLES** in TB form, a ruffled apple-blossom pink with lively apricot beard toning to pale pink. A small white wash at the end of the beards looks like embroidered designs on a peignoir. I am hooked on irises that are patterned with cinnamon-type plicatas, such as **SKIPALONG** (Ghio '96) This lavender-pink beauty has lighter standards and darker raspberry veining on the white falls, reminiscent of raspberry swirl ice cream. Yummy!

THORNBIRD is a favorite, so when Darrell Weikle's seedling

103-G showed off as a THORNBIRD in a tasteful cream color, I was awestruck. It has ruffled modern form with navy blue beards forming a little horn. Underlying the horn is a subtle blue fall streak. There is a flush of blue up the central rib. The overall pattern of falls, standards, style arms and horned beards is fascinating.

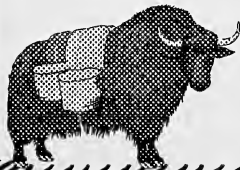
I am afraid the article does not do justice to the real beauty of these irises. I sincerely hope that the reader will be able to see them "in the flesh". Like photography, a verbal description gives only a hint of what is really there. I want to thank the hybridizers for allowing me to grow their irises and having the treat of seeing them every day. *~*

ZEBRA GARDENS

ON SAFARI IN '98

Lost Job - found new one; Needed new house - located one in Elwood, Utah; had to move garden - moved it; seeking rest & sanity - still looking!

With all the fun we're having we decided to take it "easy" next year and not put out a catalog. Our TBs and BB for '98 will be introduced by SUPERSTITION GARDENS, and our MDBs by MILLER'S MANOR GARDENS. (We'll put out a price list of available prior intros.)



"GNU" ADDRESS:

**Brad & Kathie Kasperek
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Favorite Guest Irises

1997 AIS National Convention

Following are the fifteen favorite irises voted by Conventioneers at the National Convention in Dearborn, Michigan in June, 1997.

<i>Votes</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Hybridizer</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>
216	VAVOOM	Ensminger	'94	SDB
163	FANCY WOMAN	Keppel	'95	TB
162	STEFFIE	Fisher	'93	MTB
155	LEMON POP	Lauer	'90	IB
III	BANGLES	L. Miller	'95	MTB
III	BOLD STROKE	E. Jones	'94	IB
101	COUNTRY DANCE	E. Jones	'97	IB
95	DISCOVERED GOLD	E. Jones	'96	IB
90	APRICOT DROPS	Aitken	'95	MTB
88	PLEASURES OF MAY	Schafer/Sacks	'95	Sib
86	ROMANTIC EVENING	Ghio	'96	TB
83	ALADDIN'S FLAME	Messick	'94	SDB
83	LEMON WHIP	C. Lankow	'93	IB
71	BOLD IMP	Fisher	'94	MTB
61	BOUQUET MAGIC	J & V Craig	'93	TB
60	PRISM	M. Smith	'95	IB
57	LITTLE MISTY	J & V Craig	'90	MTB
57	MULBERRY INN	D. Miller	'93	TB

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A Technicolor Feast

Book Review

by Marky Smith

AS THE WEATHER GROWS COLDER, AND THE DAYS darker, irisarians can extend their iris viewing right on through the snows of winter, with the fine new book *Iris, Flower of the Rainbow*, by Graeme Grosvenor, a noted Australian hybridizer and owner-manager of the Rainbow Ridge Gardens Nursery in Dural, N.S.W. Here is a treasury of iris photographs and a wealth of information, especially for those recently addicted to our joyous obsession and for those we wish to convert.

The book is prefaced with an introduction to the iris family. This is a simple overview, designed to give novices easy access to the various divisions of the genus *Iris*, which can be overwhelming with its diversity: divisions, subdivisions, groups, etc.

The first chapter deals with the bearded irises, cataloging the group divisions by height limits. The bearded species typical of these groups are listed and briefly described, but bearded irises in cultivation take up the lion's share of the chapter, with concise explanations for each classification, valuable cultural information, and alphabetical lists of recommended cultivars, each with a color description. The recommendations include both Australian, (a great many of which are available in the U.S.,) and North American irises, and extend from Miniature Dwarfs through the Tall Bearded, with brief attention to the Aril family. The section on Tall Bearded is extensive, with expanded information on culture, planting, pests, diseases, and displays as well as a long list of cultivars, which is additionally divided into color blocks—light blues, dark blues, etc.


The second chapter is a similar treatment of the beardless irises, focused mostly on Siberians, both 28 and 40 chromosome; "Californian" or Pacific Coast hybrids; Louisianas; Japanese; Spurias; and others. Again there is concise information about each group, useful cultural information, and recommended cultivars, with descriptions of each. The section on Louisianas is extensive, since

Mr. Grosvenor's brother-in-law, John Taylor, is at the forefront of Louisiana hybridizing, constantly creating new colors, patterns and increasing bud count and plant strength. A testimony to this are the Taylor irises in my garden that survive -20°F and six feet of snow in various winters.

Additional short chapters deal with the Evansias, the bulbous irises, and some near family members, such as Moraea and Dietes. There is a fine chapter on living with our favorite flowers - artistic possibilities for landscaping with both bearded and beardless, companion plantings, potted and cut flowers, exhibiting, and practical information on purchasing.

The chapter on hybridizing irises is as well-planned and organized as the rest of this fine book. It includes the mechanics of the process and information on germination. There is a valuable section on defining objectives and fine advice with dos and don'ts. Basic information is given on dominance and recessiveness, Mendel's laws, line breeding and the necessity of keeping precise records. And finally, there's a speculative chapter on the future of the iris, trends in the year 2000 and beyond, with some computer-altered photographs of iris of the twenty-first century.

While the text is filled, cover to cover, with excellent and useful information, the greatest glory of this book is its photographs. Little else could be as satisfying as curling up by a fire on a snowy evening and immersing oneself in page after page - 122 in all - of Technicolor irises, a rainbow of color to represent all part of the family the book has included. The photographs, many of which were taken at the 1994 AIS National Convention in Portland, Oregon, were taken by the author and Jim Frazier, a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, who is recognized as one of the world's most innovative wildlife cinematographers. Mr. Frazier's brief description of his techniques and his suggestions will be of value to any of us in the garden with camera in hand. And the beautiful photographs that fill this book will inspire many more to try.

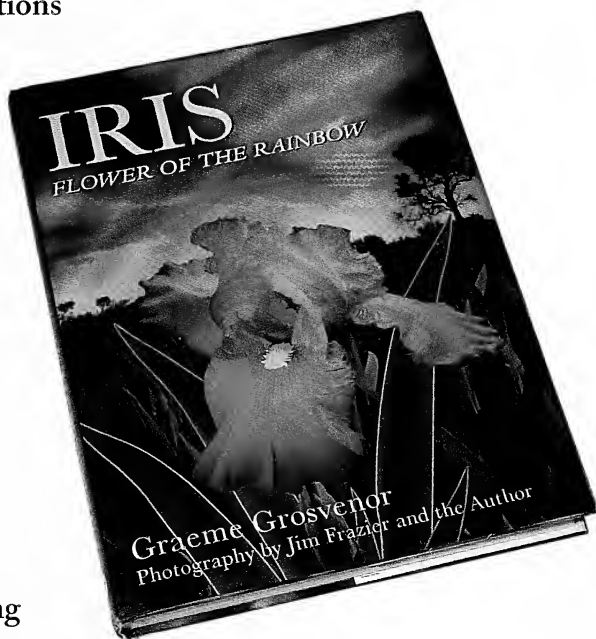
No matter your level of iris "expertise", old hand or greenhorn, photographer, hybridizer, or basic gardener this book will bring you hours of pleasure, especially when the garden is bare and the nights are long. As the reviewer, my only regret is that it's not my copy! I will remedy that and send my order as soon as I send off this recommendation. 

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AUTUMN TRYST (Weiler '93)



Photo: Airken

Brown Garden

1997 Convention Gardens in Michigan



Photo: Jim Morris

Kinderman Garden (Plants from bottom to top.)
Pretty Quirky, Cool Treat, Apricot Drops, Steffie.



Photo: Airken

Morgan Garden. Debby Outcault, Leslie Blyth,
Barry Blyth, Suzzan Sluizer, and Bill Maryott.

Glimpses of

"Rocky Mountain Date - '98"

by Linda Doty

THE MAJESTIC ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND THE 'MILE HIGH City' of Denver, Colorado will be the setting for the 1998 AIS Convention. Region 20 hosted its last convention in 1982 and enthusiasm for "Rocky Mountain Date - '98" is very high. The region will be assisted by affiliate clubs: Elmohr Iris Society, Loomis Iris Society, High Country Iris Society and the Northern Colorado Iris and Daylily Society. Headquarters will be the Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel, south of downtown. Convention dates are June 2 - 6, 1998.

City, country and public gardens will be included in the three days of touring. The Loomis Test Garden in Colorado Springs will also be showcased. A total of 2,897 plants (1,093 cultivars) were received by Cathy and Dennis Gates of Long's Gardens in 1996. The plants have been distributed to eleven different gardens and the gardeners have done a super job. First year bloom percentages were very high so if Mother Nature cooperates there should be lots to see in '98.

Glimpses of the Tour Gardens:

Dave Miller's Garden

The Miller's garden is located in a residential area, with a pond, lots of nesting birds and an occasional Great Blue Heron visitor. Dave's Hens-and-Chickens collection is incorporated with many other interesting plants. Guest Siberians have been located in this area and the guest beds have lots of roomy walkways. Receiving attention this year were the LA seedling 835A (DeSantis), two Sib's RILL (Bellagama) and LAKE KEUKA (Borglum) and a very late bloomer, the TB CONTINUITY (Innerst). David also liked the BB CASCADING RAINBOW (Black) and two Keppel TB's LOCAL COLOR and NIGHT GAME.

Barb Lewis & Lowell Baumunk's Garden

This garden is "carved out" of old growth prairie beneath some very old cottonwoods. The Highline Canal—built in the 1880's to move water around Denver—is near by and the views are fantastic. A unique planting Lowell calls "Iris of the Forties" will be featured along with fifty peonies and many other perennials in this two and one half acre area. Favorite guests this year were IN REVERSE (Gatty), and LANCER, SHEBA'S JEWEL, and DESERT FURY (Shockey).

Glenna Chapman's Garden

This garden is located in 'horse country' and affords a view from Pike's Peak to Long's Peak—the entire front range. In a land of scrub oak and ponderosa pine, Glenna's garden has a mixture of TB's and Medians along with a special planting of forties and fifties introductions. Colorado hybridizers introductions are planted along with the native columbine. Some favorites in Glenna's garden were a Schreiner seedling DDI247-1, GIRAFFE KNEEHIZ (Kasperek), PROVENCAL (Cayeux) and Mike Moller's VAIL.

Lynda Love's Garden

This football field sized city garden uses the Highline Canal as a backdrop for a wall of roses. Once an apple orchard, there are several long raised beds among the apple trees and Lynda had almost 80% first year bloom. MARCY MICHELLE (Lauer), ROMANTIC EVENING (Ghio), and the Siberian LAKE KEUKA (Borglum) topped the list of favorites for this garden.

Rob Stetson's Garden

Three city lots comprise Rob's garden where Spurias and Tall Bearded guests reside. Thirty dwarf fruit trees, many historic and species iris and a variety of other plants completely fill Rob's space. Outstanding plants were Kasperek's KING TUSH and HOTDOGS AND MUSTARD and BUBBLE DANCER (Ghio).

Long's Gardens

Located in Boulder, CO and is in it's 92nd year of commercial iris growing, Longs has been on tour for all conventions held in

Colorado. Site of the “master planting” for the convention and situated on 20 acres, these gardens always provide lots to see! Vintage buildings, wildlife, and the famous Long’s hospitality are additional perks. Cathy and Dennis Gates indicated that some of the public’s favorites during bloom season were PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE (Niswonger), CROWNED HEADS (Keppel), AURA LIGHT (Blyth), FINALIST (Gatty) and the Spurias SULTAN’S SASH (Niswonger) and MIDNIGHT RIVAL (Johnsen).

Hudson Gardens

This two year old public garden is Colorado’s only regional display garden. With an historic log building, the outdoor setting the peaceful ambiance of a *huge* garden canopy and *sixteen* different gardens to view, makes this stop a memorable one. Of course, there will be many iris to enjoy along with the extensive perennial plantings. This is a public garden in its infant stages and we feel privileged to have it on the tour.

The Western Museum of Mining & Industry

John and Jeri Knudtson have planted 287 guest plants in one corner of this 27 acre site. The museum is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the living mining heritage of the West. An historic steam engine collection and all types of mining equipment should be of interest. The iris beds have been placed in a field near many very large native willows and first year bloom was outstanding. The Knudtson’s also have some of their own collection planted for viewing. Two MTB’s PARDNER (Fisher) and PRETTY QUIRKY (Probst), the IB’s GEISHA (M. Smith), and GNU RAYZ (Kasperek) were mentioned by John and Jeri as being exceptional.

Carol and Bob Townsend’s Garden


This relatively new garden is in a suburban setting. A wonderful rock collection with an emphasis on animal figures can be viewed along with the irises. Carol has a special collection of 57 of BEVERLY SILLS ancestors which she has procured over the years. Plants she liked this year were ROCK STAR (M. Byers), FUNDANGO (Burseen), GOLD ’N ROSE (Hoage) and the BB LOW SPIRITS (Keppel).

Rancho de Oro

This garden is located in a secluded mountain valley and is owned by John and Fran Evers. The elevation is approximately 6300 feet, so many of the guest medians have been planted here. The garden is placed in a "mountain park" setting complete with stream, pond and rock formations and a grassy meadow overlooking the city of Golden, CO. The iris are in virgin soil and are being watered by pure Rocky Mountain spring water! Antique farm machinery is placed around the ranch and the Evers have a large collection of all types of iris. Favorites from this garden were the SDB BUTTERSCOTCH CARPET (Chapman), the MTB APRICOT DROPS (Aitken), two IB's GEISHA (M. Smith) and IMPERATIVE (Black) plus the TB SPLASH OF RASPBERRY (Hoage).

The Union Printer's Home Garden

Frank Foster has been the moving force for this planting on the spacious grounds surrounding the 105 year old retirement residence. The original building was constructed in 1890 and reconstructed in 1933. The International Typographical Union is the oldest surviving union in the United States. The main building houses a finch aviary and turn of the century memorabilia. Strolling the 35 acres provides wonderful views of Colorado Springs and surrounding mountains. Mentioned by Frank as being outstanding were DIRTY DEVIL CANYON (Durrance), VAIL (Moller), SABBATH SUNSET (Goebel) and EVENING OASIS (Nichols).

Take note of the dates, mark your calendar and come and join us in the Colorado sunshine. We've planned some unique and interesting lunch stops and the banquets sound fabulous. But most of all we hope to have loads of spectacular iris to see and we know being in the Colorado Rockies will be worth the trip! 

Message from Moscow

Russia's First Convention

by *Sergey Loktev*

THE CENTRAL IRIS SOCIETY OF RUSSIA PLANS TO HAVE ITS first Convention June 11 – 14, 1998. We do not have all the details yet, but the tour will probably include botanical gardens where they grow irises, perhaps a visit to a private garden and, of course, different Moscow tours. There will be iris meetings, speeches, discussions, and we are planning a final banquet.

International visitors will need a visa in order to visit Russia, so we would suggest the following procedure. If you would like to attend, please send your name, address, phone number (and Fax or email numbers) to Sergey Loktev, PO Box 54, Moscow 129226, Russia, no later than January 10, 1998. Fax or email this information to Liudmila Rosanova at 7 095 235-0252; email address: <sms@comtel.ru>. Please indicate the anticipated length of your stay at the convention hotel, and preferred accommodations (single or double occupancy). With this information we will be able to obtain firm rates from the hotel; set the registration fees and advise you of the set costs. A rough estimate would be \$70 – \$150 per day for the hotel, and about \$100 for registration, U.S. funds.

After you have obtained your visa, we will send information on how and where to send registration fees, make hotel reservations, etc., with an anticipated deadline of April 10th for receipt of registration fees.

We will look forward to seeing you at our Convention in Moscow! 🌹

Joseph K. Mertzweiller

1920 - 1997

by Marie Callet

JOSEPH K. MERTZWEILLER, A WELL KNOWN HYBRIDIZER OF Louisiana Irises, died June 26 at his home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana after a brief illness and freak accident. Mertzweiller had been President of the Society for Louisiana Irises and the Louisiana Iris Society of America and had served a term as Vice- President of AIS Region 10. He was honored by AIS in 1984 with the Hybridizer's Award and in 1991 by being named an AIS Judge Emeritus. He was instrumental in combining the Louisiana Iris Society of America with the Society for Louisiana Irises and having the Louisiana section become a Cooperating Society with AIS in 1993. Mertzweiller and his wife attended most AIS Conventions in recent years and he contributed many articles on Louisiana irises to the Bulletin and to national magazines. He was the co-editor and principal contributor to the 1988 book, *The Louisiana Iris*, and had begun work on the revision to be published by Timber Press in 1999.

Joseph Mertzweiller was best known in the iris world for his scientific work to develop a tetraploid Louisiana iris, which he accomplished in the early 1970's with the introduction of PROFESSOR IKE and PROFESSOR CLAUDE in 1973. He has since introduced eight more tetraploids and was ready to begin registering interploidies, which he had been working on for several years. His red tetraploid, PROFESSOR JIM introduced in 1986, was the 1996 winner of the *Mary Swords DeBaillon Medal*.

Mertzweiller was born and reared in New Orleans and became interested in the native irises at an early age. After receiving a Master's Degree in Chemistry and serving in the Navy during World War II, he and his wife Helene moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he took a job with Exxon in petroleum and petrochemical research. He retired as Head Research Chemist after 40 years with Exxon and began devoting all of his time to hybridizing Louisiana irises, writing about them and giving programs on irises to garden groups. Several Louisiana iris hybridizers will grow, evaluate and register some of his tetraploid and interploidy seedlings in the future. One of the interploidies that was ready for registration should be released as early as 1998. ♪

1997 AIS Medal Winners



Photo: R. Hollingworth

Morgan-Wood Medal

(Siberian)

CORONATION ANTHEM

(R. Hollingworth)

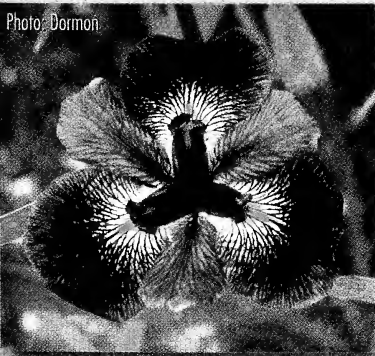


Photo: Dorman

Mary Swords

Debaillon Medal

(Louisianas)

VOO DOO MAGIC (H. Rowlan)



Eric Nies Medal (Spuria)

COUNTESS ZEPPELIN (B. Hager)



Photo: Sara Lankow

Sydney B. Mitchell Medal (CA)

NIGHT EDITOR (J. Ghio)

1997 Medal Winners



Photo: Aitken

Knowlton Medal

(Border Bearded)

SONJA'S SELAH (A. Ensminger)



Photo: Aitken

Hans & Jacob Sass Medal

(Intermediate Bearded)

HOT SPICE (T. Aitken)



PH

Williamson Wh Medal

(Miniature Tall Bearded)

ZULA (K. Fisher)



Photo: H. Shockey

Clarence G. White Medal (Arl— $\frac{1}{2}$ or more Aril)

TURKISH PENDANT (H. Shockey)

AIS
Ann
A



Photo: B. Jones

Cook-Douglas Medal

(Standard Dwarf Bearded)

BEDFORD LILAC (B. Jones)



Photo: Aitken

Caparne-Welch Medal

(Miniature Dwarf Bearded)

GRAPELET (T. Aitken)

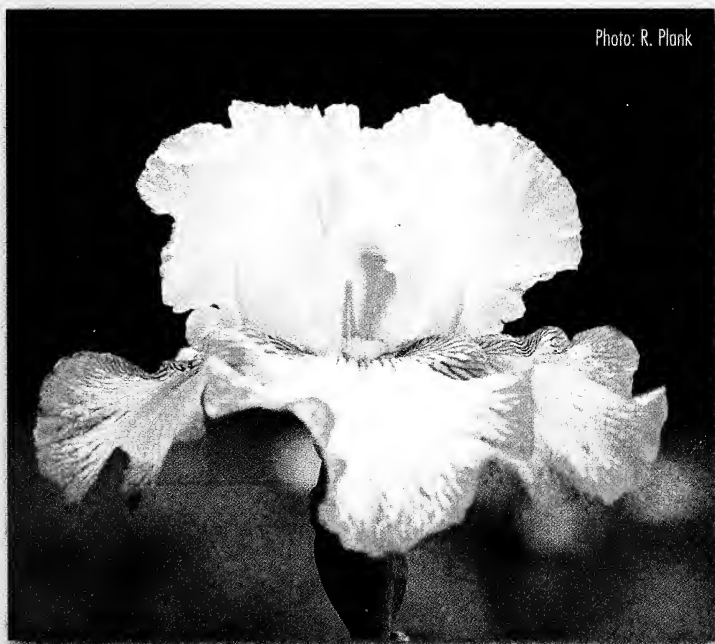


Photo: R. Plank

John C. Wister Medal (Tall Bearded)

ACOMA (T. Magee)

1997 Medal Winners



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Aitken



Photo: B. Jones



Photo: Aitken

Knowlton Medal
(Border Bearded)
SONJA'S SELAH (A. Ensminger)

Hans & Jacob Sass Medal
(Intermediate Bearded)
HOT SPICE (T. Aitken)

Williamson White Medal
(Miniature Tall Bearded)
ZULA (K. Fisher)

Cook-Douglas Medal
(Standard Dwarf Bearded)
BEDFORD LILAC (B. Jones)

Caparne-Welch Medal
(Miniature Dwarf Bearded)
GRAPELET (T. Aitken)



Photo: H. Shockey

AIS Annual Awards



Photo: R. Plonk

Clarence G. White Medal (Arl— $\frac{1}{2}$ or more Aril)
TURKISH PENDANT (H. Shockey)

John C. Wister Medal (Tall Bearded)
ACOMA (T. Magee)

IRIS STATIONERY



Don Marx, a nationally known designer and illustrator, has captured the beauty of the classic Bearded Iris. Both the note cards and stationery offer a perfect way for commercial growers or private gardeners to celebrate and share their love for this classic perennial.

IRIS NOTE CARDS...

come as a set of 24. They measure 4 1/2" x 6" and include 24 matching envelopes. These can be ordered in any single color or as a mix of 8 each.



IRIS STATIONERY...

comes as a set of 24 sheets and 24 matching envelopes. They measure 6" x 9" and can be ordered in any single color or as a mix of 8 each.



Please ship:
NOTE CARD SETS

Golden Daze _____ sets x \$22.00 _____
Royal Blue _____ sets x \$22.00 _____
Red Haze _____ sets x \$22.00 _____
Mixed Set _____ sets x \$22.00 _____

STATIONERY SETS

Golden Daze _____ sets x \$14.50 _____
Royal Blue _____ sets x \$14.50 _____
Red Glow _____ sets x \$14.50 _____
Mixed Set _____ sets x \$14.50 _____

+ Shipping & Handling \$ 5.00

Total

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Send check or money order to:

Signature Marketing Group, Inc.
2960 S McCall Road, Suite 204
Englewood, FL 34224-8069

Dr. D. C. Nearpass

1914 - 1997

by Clarence Mahan


DON CHARLES NEARPASS, MORE WIDELY KNOWN IN THE world of irises as Dr. D. C. Nearpass, or to his many friends as "Charlie," died on June 30, 1997. Born in Newbury, Ohio, Dr. Nearpass served during World War II in India and North Africa in a medical unit of the U. S. Army. Although he never spoke of such matters, his military decorations included the Bronze Star. Dr. Nearpass received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Florida, and his masters and doctorate in agronomy from Cornell University. Before retiring, he worked for many years as a soils scientist with the Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Station in Beltsville, Maryland. His work included many significant research projects relating to plant uptakes, zinc and sulphur availability, submerged soils and environmental effects of pesticides and herbicides.

An avid genealogist, Dr. Nearpass volunteered his time and knowledge at the Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Kensington, Maryland. He was a member of the Mayflower Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Dutch Settlers of Albany, Descendants of the Founders of New Jersey, and Flagon and Trencher.

His daughter Katie Nearpass Ogden wrote: "It has been said that although his career was in soils, his heart was in flowers." In the 1950's, Dr. Nearpass and his wife Bonita's interest in African violets prompted him to study plant photography, and he developed considerable expertise in this field. About the same time, a neighbor gave Dr. Nearpass some modern tall bearded irises. And so began his great love of irises. About 1960, he began his first iris breeding experiments. He was particularly impressed with the work of Paul Cook and Cook's great breakthroughs

represented by WHOLE CLOTH and EMMA COOK, and he modeled his hybridizing efforts on Cook's emphasis on carefully thought out objectives.

Over the years, Dr. Nearpass permitted only 16 of his seedlings to be introduced. He sought perfection, and his standards of excellence were legendary. One of his most popular TBs is PURPLE PEPPER (HM'88). It is generally conceded, however, that his two best TBs are DOVER BEACH and SPINNING WHEEL, surely one of the great irises of our time. He won Awards of Merit for the latter two irises. For more than a decade, Dr. Nearpass worked on a breeding program to obtain tetraploid miniature tall bearded irises with improved substance, form and color. He incorporated *Iris aphylla* into his miniature tall bearded iris breeding, and obtained some excellent seedlings—some of which dependably rebloom. He also hybridized daylilies, a number of which were registered and introduced. Last year Dr. Nearpass registered two tall bearded irises. SWEET SOLITUDE and ROMAN CARNIVAL, both of which were introduced this year by Friendship Gardens.

From 1975 to 1984, Dr. Nearpass served as the Slides Chairman for AIS, as well as for Region 4 for many years. He put together many outstanding slide sets, a good portion of which were the result of his own photography. For as long as anyone can remember, he was the auctioneer for the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society. In 1996, the American Iris Society formally recognized Dr. Nearpass's distinguished work by awarding him its coveted Hybridizer's Medal. Region 4 instituted the Nearpass Award, which is bestowed annually on the best in-region iris. Charlie was compassionate and generous, dedicated and wise. He taught a whole generation of mid-Atlantic iris growers about irises. For his standards, his accomplishments, his knowledge and his wisdom, Dr. Nearpass was much respected. For his heart, Charlie was much loved. 

AIS Awards

Dykes Memorial Medal

THORNBIRD (M. Byers) 102 votes

runners up

SUPREME SULTAN (Schreiner's) 69 votes

CONJURATION (M. Byers) 53 votes

Votes **John C. Wister Medal** (Tall Bearded)

45 ACOMA (T.Magee)

runners up

²⁸ CITY LIGHTS (M. Dunn), ²⁷ AMERICA'S CUP (J. McWhirter)

Mary Swords Debaillon Medal (Louisianas)

36 VOO DOO MAGIC (H. Rowlan)

runners up

35 COUP D'ETAT (M. Dunn), 34 BAYOU MYSTIQUE (M. Dunn)

Knowlton Medal (Border Bearded)

81 SONJA'S SELAH (A. Ensminger)

runners up

63 MAID OF ORANGE (J.T. Aitken),

51 HONKY TONK HUSSY (D. Meek)

Williamson White Medal (Miniature Tall Bearded)

48 ZULA (K. Fisher)

runners up

34 CHERRY (M. Dunderman), 32 STRIPED PANTS (K. Fisher)

Hans & Jacob Sass Medal (Intermediate Bearded)

52 HOT SPICE (J.T. Aitken)

runners up

49 JOHN (A. Ensminger), 47 LOW HO SILVER (M. Byers)

Clarence G. White Medal (Aril—½ or more Aril)

38 TURKISH PENDANT (H. Shockey)

runners up

36 KALIFA'S ROBE (B. Hager), 19 PINK BETTERMENT (L. Peterson)

Cook-Douglas Medal (Standard Dwarf Bearded)

53 BEDFORD LILAC (B. Jones)

runners up

51 LITTLE SHOWOFF (E. Hall), 38 CIMARRON ROSE (H. Nichols)

William Mohr Medal ($\frac{1}{4}$ to less than $\frac{1}{2}$ Aril)

47 OMAR THE TENTMAKER (C. Boswell)

runners up

31 SHEBA'S BEAUTY (H. Nichols)

26 PRAIRIE THUNDER (P. Black)

Caparne-Welch Medal (Miniature Dwarf Bearded)

33 GRAPELET (J.T. Aitken)

runners up

31 SNUGGLES (L. Miller), 26 PETITE JEWEL (D. Albers)

Eric Nies Medal (Spuria)

27 COUNTESS ZEPPELIN (B. Hager)

runners up

26 IN DEPTH (B. Hager)

24 SONORAN SENORITA (F. Wickenkamp)

Morgan-Wood Medal (Siberian)

85 CORONATION ANTHEM (R. Hollingworth)

runners up

41 REPRISE (B. Warburton), 40 SPRINGS BROOK (B. Warburton)

Sydney B. Mitchell Medal (CA)

21 NIGHT EDITOR (J. Ghio)

runners up

17 FOOTHILL BANNER (L. Lawyer)

15 SMUGGLER'S COVE (V. Wood)

J. A. Payne Medal (Japanese) — Tie

31 ELECTRIC RAYS (J.T. Aitken)

31 IAPETUS (S. Innerst)

runners-up

27 PINK DIMITY (L. Reid)

19 JOCASTA (S. Innerst)

19 ORIENTAL CLASSIC (C. McEwen)

Walther Cup (Most HM votes in all categories)

- 171 FANCY WOMAN (K. Keppel)
 runners up
 148 JURASSIC PARK (L. Lauer)
 141 BANGLES (L. Miller)
 138 STRAWBERRY FAIR (R. Hollingworth)

AWARD OF MERIT*Miniature Dwarf Bearded*

- 77 TOOTH FAIRY (B. Jones) 52 S'MORE (J.T. Aitken)
 runners up
 45 HEY THERE (C. Lankow) 35 ROBIN'S EGG (D. Sindt)

Miniature Tall Bearded

- 131 PRETTY QUIRKY (A. Probst)
 111 BILLIE THE BROWNIE (J. Burton II)
 runners up
 97 PARDNER (K. Fisher) 52 PETITE DOLL (H. Rowlan)

Standard Dwarf Bearded

- 152 PELE (J. T. Aitken) 70 JEWELERS' ART (C. Lankow)
 97 STARBABY (M. Smith) 55 ICE AND INDIGO (A&D Willott)
 77 ALADDIN'S FLAME (V. Messick)
 runners up
 51 LITTLE BLUE EYES (J. Weiler) 47 QUICKEN (J.T. Aitken)

Arilbred ($\frac{1}{4}$ to less than $\frac{1}{2}$ Aril)

- 24 PATRIOT'S GEM (F. Gadd) 18 DESERT TRUMPET (L. Flanagan)
 18 MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION (S. McAllister)
 runners up
 17 IN TOTO (C. Boswell) 17 ONCO G PLUS (C. Boswell)

Aril/Arilbred ($\frac{1}{2}$ or more Aril)

- 33 QUEEN SHEBA (H. Shockey) 16 TURKISH HERALD (H. Shockey)
 17 JONNYE'S MAGIC (L. Rich)
 runners up
 15 ARABIAN ARCHER (L. Rich) 15 BIONIC FOCUS (H. Danielson)

Intermediate Bearded

- 80 DARK WATERS (J.T. Aitken)
 71 PRINCE OF BURGUNDY (O.D. Niswonger)
 runners up
 67 LEMON WHIP (C. Lankow) 66 ORANGE PETALS (O.D. Nisw.)

Louisiana

- 42 PROFESSOR NEIL (J. Mertzweiller)
 35 CAJUN COOKERY (B. Hager)
 runners up
 31 PRALINE FESTIVAL (D. Haymon)
 31 PROFESSOR BARBARA (J. Mertzweiller)

Border Bearded

- 82 TINK (J. Durrance) 65 RINKY DINK (K. Keppel)
 65 CALICO KID (A. Ensminger)
 runners up
 62 PEACH ICE CREAM (C. Lankow)
 45 BALLERINA PRINCESS (J. Stadler)

Japanese

- 35 DIOMEDES (S. Innerst) 32 PICOTEE PRINCESS (L. Reid)
 runners-up
 24 ELECTRIC GLOW (J.T. Aitken) 20 AMETHYST WINGS (W. Ackerman)

Californicae

- 15 EARTHQUAKE (J. Ghio)
 15 WESTERN BLUEBIRD (J. Weiler)
 runners up
 12 DEEP BLUE SEA (J. Ghio) 11 NATIONAL ANTHEM (J. Ghio)

Siberian

- 148 ROARING JELLY (Schafer/Sacks)
 98 HARPSWELL VELVET (McEwen)
 runners up
 70 CHEERY LYN (A. Miller) 57 DEVIL'S DREAM (Schafer/Sacks)

Species

- 119 DOTTED LINE (L. Reid) 31 BUTTERFLY MODE (L. Reid)
 runners up
 19 LITTLE RHYME (Schafer/Sacks) 9 CASCADE CREME (L. Reid)

Inter-Species

- 31 PACIFIC STARPRINT (L. Reid)

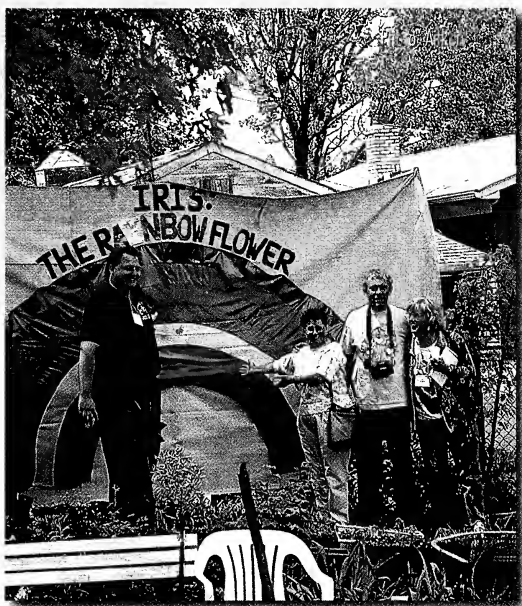
Spuria

- 57 ILA REMEMBERED (B. Hager)
 41 ALPHASPU (B.C. Jenkins)
 41 ORO DE SONORA (F. Wickenkamp)
 runners up
 35 BRONZE ART (B.C. Jenkins) 24 CENTERING POINT (J. Ghio)



Photo: Jim Morris

MEXICANA (Salter before 1859)
at the Detroit Zoo Garden



Calhoun Garden. Peter Weixlman, Marilyn Harlow,
Bill Maryott, and Carol Warner



Photo: Jim Morris

PRINCE OF BURGUNDY (Niswonger '93), IB



Photo: Aitken

GNU RAYS (Kasperek '97), IB

1997 Convention Gardens in Michigan



Photo: Sarah Hegerfeld

Hal & Dorothy Stahly



Photo: Jim Morris

BOZRAH (Gadd '90), AB



Photo: Jim Morris

PLEASURES OF MAY (Schafer/Sacks '95), SIB



Photo: Ann Cline

Seedling #92-13 (Hal Stahly)

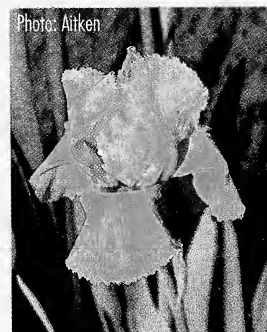


Photo: Aitken

ZANTHA (O. Fay '47)



Photo: Ann Cline

Royal Rainbow Garden

1997 Convention Gardens in Michigan

Tall Bearded

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 153 BLACK TIE AFFAIR (Schreiner's) | 57 PINK STARLET (V. Wood) |
| 150 BOOGIE WOOGIE (H. Nichols) | 57 PRETTY WOMAN (Maryotts') |
| 128 RHONDA FLEMING (R. Mullin) | 57 HORATIO (B. Hager) |
| 112 STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (L. Lauer) | 56 WENCH (L. Miller) |
| 111 CELEBRATION SONG (Schreiner's) | 56 VOLTAGE (V. Messick) |
| 110 KATHLEEN K. NELSON (B. Hager) | 56 UNFORGETTABLE FIRE (Schreiner's) |
| 76 ACAPULCO SUNSET (H. Nichols) | 54 SOCIAL EVENT (K. Keppel) |
| 68 IN REVERSE (J. Gatty) | 54 QUITO (J. Ghio) |
| 67 APRIL IN PARIS (V. Wood) | 52 CORAL SUNSET (Schreiner's) |
| 64 CLARENCE (L. Zurbrigg) | 51 RUFFLED GODDESS (R. Tasco) |
| 62 INDIGO PRINCESS (Schreiner's) | 51 HALO IN ROSEWOOD (Niswonger) |
| 61 OMINOUS STRANGER (S. Innerst) | |
| 59 CHANGE OF PACE (Schreiner's) | |

runners up

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 50 HONEYMOON SUITE (J. Ghio) | 50 STARDUST MEMORIES (Schreiner's) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|

HONORABLE MENTION***Miniature Dwarf Bearded***

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 43 SCRUPLES (L. Miller) | 32 SQUIGGLES (L. Miller) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|

Standard Dwarf Bearded

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 75 HOTTENTOT (M. Smith) | 36 ACEY DUCEY (A. Ensminger) |
| 43 BOOM BOOM BUNNY (L. Miller) | 36 ORANGE OUTRAGE (B. Jones) |
| 43 RAPSCALLION (L. Miller) | 34 BEACH BABY (R. Tasco) |
| 41 HARLEM NOCTURNE (A&D Willott) | 34 BLACKBERRY JAM (A&D Willott) |
| 40 SNUGGLEBUG (Schreiner's) | 34 TICKLED PEACH (C. Lankow) |
| 39 PEACH COOLER (J.T. Aitken) | 33 ABBA ALIAS ABBA (Ensminger) |
| 38 CLUE (V. Wood) | 33 WIDOW'S VEIL (L. Miller) |
| 37 TOTALLY COOL (J.T. Aitken) | 33 PIRATE'S PATCH (P. Black) |

Intermediate Bearded

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 70 GURU (K Keppel) | 50 PRISM (M. Smith) |
| 61 MAGIC BUBBLES (A&D Willott) | 39 TACT (K. Keppel) |
| 52 BOTTLED SUNSHINE (H. Nichols) | 36 DARKNESS (B. Hager) |
| 50 SEASON TICKET (J. Gatty) | |

Miniature Tall Bearded

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 141 BANGLES (L. Miller) | 87 STEFFIE (K. Fisher) |
|-------------------------|------------------------|

***Arilbred* (¼ to less than ½ Aril)**

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 51 KALIFA'S HORN (R. Annand) | 15 OLD FASHIONED GIRL (S. McAllister) |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Aril/Arilbred (½ or more Aril)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 21 LANCER (H. Shockey) | 14 WHITE CHOCOLATE (S. McAllister) |
| 15 LIGHTS OF ARABIA (J. Rich) | 13 OMAR'S VALOR (C. Boswell) |
| 15 SOLOMON'S WISDOM (J. Rich) | |

Border Bearded

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 73 CRANAPPLE (J.T. Aitken) | 34 BABY GRAND (D. Meek) |
| 58 CALICO KITTEN (C. Tompkins) | 34 CAN DO (A. Ensminger) |
| 41 TOMMYKNOCKER (R. Lyons) | 34 MARGARET BEAUFORT |
| 40 COOL TREAT (C. Lankow) | (L. Burton) |

Tall Bearded

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 171 FANCY WOMAN (K. Keppel) | 38 TELEGRAPH HILL (J. McWhirter) |
| 148 JURASSIC PARK (L. Lauer) | 37 CAJUN SPICES (Maryott) |
| 93 BEWILDERBEAST (B. Kasperek) | 37 CRUISE CONTROL (L. Lauer) |
| 81 FASHION DESIGNER (K. Keppel) | 37 EARTH SONG (E. Kegerise) |
| 61 ANSWERED PRAYERS (K. Keppel) | 37 KEVIN'S THEME (F. Kerr) |
| 59 OH JAMAICA (Schreiner's) | 36 LOS COYOTES (T. Burseen) |
| 58 DAWNING (J. Ghio) | 36 SPANISH FIREBALL (B. Jones) |
| 57 GREAT GATSBY (J. McWhirter) | 36 TOASTED WATERMELON (J. Hoage) |
| 57 QUEEN OF ANGELS (Schreiner's) | 35 DOROTHEA MARQUART (S. Innerst) |
| 56 POND LILY (E. Jones) | 35 SHIRLEY M. (E. Kegerise) |
| 56 SMART MOVE (K. Keppel) | 35 TANQUERAY (M. Dunn) |
| 54 AROUND MIDNIGHT (Schreiner's) | 34 AUTUMN TRYST (J. Weiler) |
| 53 NIGERIAN RASPBERRY (B. Kasperek) | 34 GOODBYE GIRL (Schreiner's) |
| 52 HOT CHOCOLATE (J. Ghio) | 34 LACY PRIMROSE (J. Hoage) |
| 52 TANZANIAN TANGERINE (B. Kasperek) | 33 COMMANDANTE (J. Ghio) |
| 49 PRETTY IS (R. Mullin) | 33 FILIBUSTER (J. Ghio) |
| 47 ANGELS IN FLIGHT (V. Messick) | 33 PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE |
| 46 OVERNIGHT SENSATION (Schreiner's) | (O.D. Niswonger) |
| 45 DREAMSICLE (Schreiner's) | 33 ZEBRA BLUSH (B. Kasperek) |
| 45 JOHNNY REB (R. Nelson) | 32 AGE OF INNOCENCE (F. Kerr) |
| 45 RED HAWK (Schreiner's) | 32 CHERRY GLENN (Maryott) |
| 44 PANAMA HATTIE (J. Begley) | 32 CROSS CURRENT (K. Keppel) |
| 44 STAR SAILOR (Schreiner's) | 32 ERMINE DOLL (S. Dexter) |
| 43 VIOLET TIGER (B. Kasperek) | 32 MARTHELLA (H. Nichols) |
| 42 MASTER PLAN (K. Keppel) | 32 PAGAN GODDESS (L. Miller) |
| 41 GOOD LOOKING (Schreiner's) | 32 RASPBERRY SPLENDOR (Niswonger) |
| 40 CRANBERRY DELIGHT (J.T. Aitken) | 32 RIPPLING RIVER (Schreiner's) |
| 40 EMPEROR'S CONCERTO (V. Wood) | 31 BUBBLE DANCER (J. Ghio) |
| 39 HOTDOGS AND MUSTARD (K. Kasperek) | 31 CIRCUS WORLD (Schreiner's) |
| 38 EDITH P. WHEELER (J. McWhirter) | 31 FORBIDDEN FRUIT (L. Gartman) |
| 38 JAMES P. (M. Dunn) | 31 ISLAND SURF (J.T. Aitken) |
| 38 NORA EILEEN (G. Richardson) | 31 KLONDIKE LIL (V. Wood) |

(Honorable Mention, Tall Bearded, continued)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 31 LA VALSE (B. Hager) | 29 DANUBE WALTZ (H. Nichols) |
| 30 AFTER THE DAWN (R. Ernst) | 29 FALLEN ANGEL (D. Meek) |
| 30 FUNNY GIRL (J. Gibson) | 29 INDULGE (R. Nelson) |
| 30 GOLD SPECULATOR (B. Williamson) | 29 INFERNAL FIRE (G. Richardson) |
| 30 GRATEFUL CITIZEN (S. Innerst) | 29 MYSTIC'S MUSE (Schreiner's) |
| 30 MOUNTAIN MAJESTY (J. Ghio) | 29 SCARLET EMBERS (J. Begley) |
| 30 QUIET ELEGANCE (J.T. Aitken) | 29 WATER BALLET (J. Ghio) |
| 29 COALIGNITION (T. Burseen) | 29 WINDS OF CHANGE (B. Hager) |

Japanese

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 27 RASPBERRY GLOW (Aitken) | 23 INK ON ICE (Aitken) |
| 21 ABRACO (S. Innerst) | 17 BLUE EMBERS
(W. Ackerman) |

Siberian

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 138 STRAWBERRY FAIR (R. Hollingworth) | 76 MESA PEARL (J. Coble/R. Bauer) |
| 95 LAKE KEUKA (D. Borglum) | 34 GOLDEN EDGE (C. McEwen) |

Spuria

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 26 SUNRISE IN SONORA (F. Wickenkamp) | 21 MISSOURI SPRINGS (Niswonger) |
| 21 CLARA ELLEN (B.C. Jenkins) | 18 ZAMBOANGA (B. Hager) |

Louisiana

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 24 OKLAHOMA KITTY (M. Granger) | 21 CAJUN SUNSET (M. Granger) |
| 24 COTTON PLANTATION (M. Dunn) | 20 GOOD DOCTOR (J. Mertzweiller) |
| 23 MERCI BEAUCOUP (M. Dunn) | 19 BAYOU DAWN (H. Rowlan) |
| 23 RICH AND FAMOUS (M. Dunn) | |

Californicae

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 16 SEA GAL (L. Belardi) | 8 BLUE MOMENT (D. Meek) |
| 12 LA SELVA BEACH (J. Ghio) | 8 EL NINO (J. Ghio) |
| 11 CARMEL MISSION (J. Ghio) | 8 SAN LORENZO VALLEY (J. Ghio) |
| 9 WESTERLIES (J. Ghio) | 8 WHAT'S WHAT (J. Ghio) |

Species

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| 19 ARCTIC REBLOOMER (Carla Lankow) |
| 14 ILLINI FOUNTAIN (D.S. Varner) |

Interspecies

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 19 AQUATIC ALLIANCE (L. Reid) | 18 FADED JEANS (H. Bishop) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|

Big Ideas

for Little Irises

by Tom Tadfor Little

LIKE MANY IRIS ENTHUSIASTS, I HAVE HYBRIDIZING PLANS. Unlike many others, though, I don't have visions of those plans leading to commercial success and awards. I'm more interested in doing something that will be a learning experience and possibly expand breeding opportunities for others in the future. My vision is a simple one: to fill out the fertile families of tetraploid bearded and aril irises using species that were largely bypassed in their breeding to date.

First, I'll explain a little of the theory of the project, and then describe what I think needs to be done to realize it.

Fertile Families of Bearded and Aril Irises

The bearded iris species of Europe and the eastern Mediterranean have given rise to modern tall bearded, median, and dwarf irises. They are the most widely grown and most extensively hybridized members of the genus. The bearded species fall into two broad categories with respect to their chromosome make-up: some have chromosomes in sets of 12, and others in sets of 8. In both categories, there are some diploid species (2 chromosome sets) and some tetraploid species (4 sets). Here's a quick breakdown, not meant to be botanically thorough:

8-chromosome category, diploids:

* *I. attica* (dwarf)

* *I. pseudopumila* (dwarf)

8-chromosome category, tetraploid:

* *I. pumila* (dwarf)

12-chromosome category, diploids:

* *I. suaveolens* (mellita) (dwarf)

* *I. reichenbachii* (dwarf)

- * *I. variegata* (median)
- * *I. imbricata* (median)
- * *I. pallida* (tall)
- * most hybrids in the MTB class

12-chromosome category, tetraploids:

- * *I. reichenbachii* (balkana) (dwarf)
- * *I. reichenbachii* (dwarf)
- * *I. aphylla* (median)
- * *I. croatica* (tall)
- * *I. cypriana* (tall)
- * *I. kashmiriana* (tall)
- * *I. mesopotamica* (tall)
- * *I. trojana* (tall)
- * virtually all modern hybrids in the TB and BB classes, and an increasing number of hybrid MTBs

To complete the picture, let's add in the aril irises, with chromosomes that come in sets of 10 (oncocycli) or 11 (regelia). I'll call them the 10-chromosome category, because regelias and oncocycli can be crossed, and the advanced-generation plants usually have chromosomes in sets of 10.

10-chromosome category, diploids:

- * *I. korolkowii* (regelia)
- * all oncocycli species
- * most pure aril hybrids (regeliocycli and oncogelias)

10-chromosome category, tetraploids:

- * *I. stolonifera* (regelia)
- * *I. hoogiana* (regelia)
- * a few pure aril hybrids, most notably those derived from diploid arils converted to tetraploidy by the use of colchicine

Each of these six groups constitutes a fertile family. That is, one can expect members within each group to produce fertile offspring when crossed. In general, crosses between members of different fertile families will not produce reliably fertile offspring. This means there is a "fertility barrier" to the program of combining the characteristics of different families of irises in a

single line of breeding. The first generation can often be produced, but then progress is slowed or halted by the limited fertility of the hybrids.

There is one important exception to the rule that hybrids between different families are sterile. If two tetraploid families are used, the hybrids will be fertile *amphidiploids*. (An amphidiploid is a kind of tetraploid with two sets of one type and two sets of a different type.) Such amphidiploids also constitute a fertile family: they can be expected to produce fertile hybrids when crossed with each other, but not when crossed with members of other families.

Since there are three basic tetraploid families, there are three possible amphidiploid families (8-8-12-12, 8-8-10-10, and 12-12-10-10). Two of these have been developed by hybridizers, and are remarkable success stories in the history of iris breeding. These are the SDBs (8-8-12-12, from crossing *I. pumila* with TBs) and the amphidiploid arilbreds (12-12-10-10, mostly developed by C. G. White from crossing TBs with arils). The SDBs were relatively easy to produce, since tetraploid parents of both types were available for use. The amphidiploid arilbreds were harder to obtain, since White did not have tetraploid arils of *oncocyclus* ancestry to work with, but had to use diploid arils to bring the *oncocyclus* characteristics into his breeding lines. Luckily, the fertility barrier in working with diploids is not an absolute law; but getting past it requires Herculean persistence.

The third amphidiploid family comes from crossing arils with *I. pumila*. It has not yet received much attention from hybridizers, for several reasons: tetraploid arils with *oncocyclus* ancestry are a relatively recent development, *I. pumila* is not easy to grow in most climates where arils thrive, and there is not a great commercial demand for dwarf arilbreds.

Assessing the Tetraploid Fertile Families

Development of the tetraploid and amphidiploid fertile families through breeding has not involved a thorough effort to exploit the characteristics of many different species. Rather, the fertile families have all been established from a relatively small number of original parents. Subsequent breeding has thus merely

exploited the latent potential of these pioneering crosses. With each successive generation of selective breeding, flower quality improves. This is good, of course, but it has the undesirable consequence of making hybridizers more reluctant to return to the original species to expand the genetic base of the family. What follows is a brief assessment of what has been done in each family, and what might be gained by filling it out using species that were bypassed originally.

The 48-Chromosome Tetraploids

This family includes the modern tall bearded irises, certainly the most hybridized family in the entire genus. The TBs derive primarily from the tetraploid tall bearded species (all of which are rather similar), *I. pallida* (a diploid TB), and *I. variegata* (a diploid median). A few of the other species (such as *I. aphylla*) have also contributed, but to a very limited degree.

Recently, *I. aphylla* has been used by a small number of dedicated breeders to expand the median classes (most notably the MTBs). These new tetraploid medians are fully fertile with the TBs and BBs, and provide a channel for bringing the characteristics of the highly developed modern TBs into smaller plants.

There are two other avenues for expanding this family that should not be overlooked:

1. The dwarf species *I. reichenbachii* (in some of its forms) is already a member of this family, and can be bred into it without much difficulty. The long-term result would be to extend the family into the SDB and MDB classes, without losing fertility with the TBs. Currently, almost all SDBs are members of a different fertile family, and tend to produce sterile offspring when crossed with anything else. 48-chromosome SDBs would not experience this fertility barrier when crossed with TBs or 48-chromosome dwarfs and medians, but would of course lack the delightfully varied *I. pumila* genes.

2. The diploid species (dwarf, median, and tall) could be converted to tetraploidy by use of colchicine, or their genes worked in to the group through persistent hybridizing effort.

The 32-Chromosome Tetraploids

This family consists of the single species, *I. pumila*. Fortunately, this species exhibits remarkable variability in color, form, and plant habit. There are white, yellow, purple, blue, and blended forms, with or without contrasting spot pattern or beard. A good number of garden hybrids have been named and registered as MDBs.

The diploids *I. attica* and *I. pseudopumila* probably do not have that much to contribute to this group of plants. It is likely that *I. pumila* itself is a natural hybrid originating from these two diploid species. Breeders can work on producing garden pumilas that are more adaptable to climates with mild winters, but otherwise there is little to add to this single-species family.

The 40-Chromosome Tetraploids

These are the tetraploid arils. Originally the family consisted only of the two regelia species *I. hoogiana* and *I. stolonifera*, plus just a few aril hybrids that were tetraploid by fluke of nature. Now, the use of colchicine on oncocylus species and pure aril hybrids has produced a race of tetraploid arils with more oncocylus ancestry. Regelias were used in their breeding too, for the sake of gardenability, and because the original colchicine-induced tetraploids were very difficult to intercross. (Fertility tends to be low in induced tetraploids for several generations.)

I think the great need in this family is to incorporate even more oncocylus species into the family. Repeating the colchicine treatment on other oncocylus species and hybrids should be pursued, and so should crossing tetraploid arils with diploid oncos. This will be slow and difficult work, but it is important in the long run.

The present family can be improved by line breeding, of course, but we should try not to depend exclusively on the currently available tetraploids, which are still not many. They do show a nice diversity in form, pattern, and plant qualities, but most of them show their regelia ancestry to a moderate or great extent, and lack the refinement of the diploid oncocylus.

The 40-Chromosome Amphidiploids

This family includes the SDBs, originally derived from TBs and *I. pumila*. These have been line bred nearly to perfection, and

are the most popular medians. There is another important segment of this family, however: MDBs from SDB breeding. Many of the popular miniature dwarfs in recent years are actually diminutive SDBs, in much the same way that BBs are diminutive TBs. This approach to MDB breeding has potential, but also has problems familiar to BB breeders: plants that grow out of class and the difficulty of “fixing” the small size into a reliable line.

A full family of 48-chromosome dwarfs and medians crossed with *I. pumila* would likely produce very dainty 40-chromosome amphidiploids that would be a great asset to MDB breeding. There are already some 40-chromosome MDBs from such breeding, but the program is still in its infancy.

Such 40-chromosome miniatures would also be useful in SDB breeding, as a way to reduce coarseness and other problems of proportion that sometimes arise within this class.

The 44-Chromosome Amphidiploids

This fertile family includes the amphidiploid arilbreds. Most current cultivars are descendants of C. G. White’s original groundbreaking hybrids. Also included are amphidiploid arilbreds from regelia breeding. Now that there are tetraploid aril hybrids from colchicine-treated oncocyclus and oncogelias, it is possible to expand this family with far less difficulty than White encountered in creating it.

First and foremost, the new tetraploid arils should be crossed with modern TBs, to broaden both the aril and bearded components of the arilbred gene pool. This line of work is underway, although progress is slow. More breeders need to get involved.

Secondly, more attention needs to be given to the regelias. The tetraploid regelias can be crossed with a variety of modern TBs, and the resulting seedlings line bred or worked into more traditional arilbred lines. This sort of breeding has been going on for decades, but at a very slow rate. The reason is that the “regelia look” is not appreciated as an interesting alternative to the “onco look”. Until regeliabreds are appreciated for their own distinctive qualities, breeders will not be inclined to work with them. Regelias are also more easily grown than oncos; hence they have potential

in producing more adaptable arilbreds.

Finally, 48-chromosome dwarfs and medians can be used with the tetraploid arils to create arilbred medians that are fully fertile with traditional arilbreds. (A couple have already been produced.) This development would really liberate arilbred median breeding from its current shortcomings. Most current arilbred medians are sterile unbalanced tetraploids, produced by crossing arilbreds with SDBs. They are thus only $\frac{1}{4}$ aril, with no possibility for improvement through line breeding. Arilbred medians from tetraploid median x tetraploid aril breeding would be $\frac{1}{2}$ aril and fully fertile. Furthermore, since they belong to the same fertile family as the traditional C. G. White-type arilbreds, the potential for improvement and refinement is enormous.

One particularly interesting combination might be to cross tetraploid MTBs with regelias, which already show some of the grace and delicacy expected in the MTB class.

The 36-Chromosome Amphidiploids

This last family comes from crossing tetraploid arils with *I. pumila*. There are very few irises of this type in commerce. They are arilbred dwarfs, half aril but typically less than 6 inches tall. So far, most of these have been produced to satisfy breeders' curiosity, rather than as part of a determined program to create a new commercially successful fertile family.

Systematic production and improvement of these "arilpums" should now be taken up in earnest. The *I. pumila* genes should confer adaptability to colder, wetter climates, a quality which most current tall arilbreds lack. Furthermore, being fully $\frac{1}{2}$ aril, the arilpums can be expected to show strong aril flower characteristics. Ultimately, they may be the best vehicle for bringing the beauty of the arils into the gardens of nonspecialists.

There are many clones of *I. pumila* available; there are also a fair number of tetraploid arils. All that remains is to make a lot of crosses and grow a lot of seedlings.

Personal Priorities

My two highest breeding priorities are to create more small 48-chromosome medians and to establish a family of 36-

chromosome arilpums. The 44-chromosome arilbreds are also a strong interest, particularly working with regelias and tetraploid medians as parents. I am fortunate to live in a climate that is cold enough to grow *I. pumila* and other dwarf bearded species, but also dry enough to grow pure arils.

The small 48-chromosome medians, actually, are a cornerstone in expanding three of the six fertile families described in this article. They are valuable in their own right, by virtue of being compatible with the highly developed TBs; they can vitalize MDB breeding by spawning a 40-chromosome fertile family of truly small dwarfs; and they can bring about a completely new family of fertile arilbred medians with all the drama and variety of the tall arilbreds.

I do indeed have big plans for these little irises, and I hope others will too. These are broths that now suffer from too few cooks, rather than too many. Much-needed progress is always slowed, and sometimes even reversed, because there are not enough hybridizers to create, share, and protect the products of their work.

Acknowledgments

Nothing in this article is original. All the ideas have been around for a long time, and some dedicated breeders are already at work in each of the areas I mention. Here are some of the important people in this story so far. This list is not all-inclusive. If I leave some out, it is not meant to minimize their contributions.

Ben Hager recognized the importance of *I. aphylla* in median breeding, and decades ago launched a long and ultimately successful program to breed tetraploid MTBs from *I. aphylla*. Hager also led the way in breeding 40-chromosome miniature dwarfs.

Jim and Vicki Craig are now the unquestioned specialists in the world of 48-chromosome tetraploid medians. Using *I. aphylla*, they have produced not only MTBs but IBs and BBs in a full range of colors. In just the last few years, they have also produced SDBs from this line. This is an exciting development indeed.

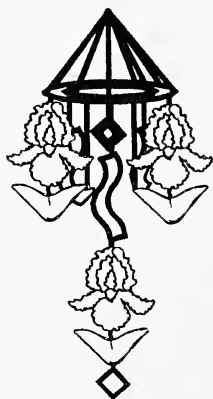
Peter Werckmeister was one of the first to appreciate and publicize the “fertile family” concept as presented in this article,

particularly as regards the arilbreds. He produced a number of 36-chromosome arilpums, now apparently lost.

Sam Norris, along with John Holden, developed a line of tetraploid arils based on colchicine-treated oncocycli and oncogelias. Without this revolutionary development, we would be limited to only one or two tetraploid arils with any oncocyclus ancestry, and half of the plans in this article would not be possible.

Harald Mathes has used the tetraploid arils to produce a few fertile arilbred dwarfs and medians, in both the 44-chromosome and 36-chromosome families. Francesca Thoolen has taken a strong interest in the 36-chromosome arilpums.

As I said at the beginning, these types of breeding projects are unlikely to bring commercial success or high awards to the hybridizer, at least not until many generations of seedlings have gone to the compost pile. Yet I'd consider my plans a success if someday I am deemed to have entered the company of the dedicated iris breeders listed here. ♪



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Minutes

of the Board of Directors Meeting

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Dearborn, Michigan

June 3 and 4, 1997

President Niswonger called to order the regular spring meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society at 1:10 pm on June 3, 1997. Present at the various sessions were President Niswonger; 1st Vice President Mahan; 2nd Vice President & Editor T. Aitken; Secretary J. Plank; Treasurer B. Nichols; Membership Secretary Harlow; Recording Secretary Guest; Legal Advisor R. Plank; Directors Corlew, Harder, L. Miller, Pope, Waters, M. Wilhoit, M. Lowe, Probst, Moller and Witt; RVP Board Representative G. Sutton (14); Foundation Liaison Mazur; Standing Committee Chairmen McNames, J. Morris, and Snyder; RVPs W. Hazelton (1), B. Nutter (3), A. Lowe (4), Thurman (7), Reid (13), Holk (15), McMillen (16), Reuter (21), Bergamo (23), Parkins (24); RVP Representatives Meyer (11), Szuriga (19); and guests M. Hazelton (1), Weinbaum (2), Marley (4), Lineberger (5), Outcalt (6), Wilhoit (9), Maryott (14), Messick (14), M. Sutton (14), Carson (15), G. Snyder (15), Byrne (17), Pfarner (17), Wyss (18), Gossett (22), Hickerson (22), Lack (22), Simmons (22), B. Figge (23), Sluizer (23)

In his opening remarks, President Niswonger recognized those present and encouraged everyone to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may vote.

The minutes of the fall, 1996 meeting in Colorado Springs, CO, printed in AIS Bulletin #304 were approved with the following corrections: S. Pope noted that the correct number of affiliates should be 171, not 154 as reported. J. Plank noted that the Hybridizers' Award does not include the word "distinguished" as part of its official title.

Niswonger reported on events that have occurred since the fall Board meeting:

The death of Richard Pettijohn, who served as the AIS Foundation Liaison to the AIS Board of Directors, created a vacancy which the AIS Foundation filled by appointing Roger Mazur to the position.

Following the death of Evelyn Jones, Chairman of the Library Committee, Niswonger asked Keith McNames to assume her duties. J. Plank moved, Miller seconded that the McNames appointment be ratified. Motion carried.

Sharon McAllister has prepared an extensive check list of aril and aril-bred irises which has been submitted, at her request, to the Board for approval. Offers for possible publication have been received, and since the material contained therein was obtained from AIS publications, McAllister would like Board approval for her work using that material. Action was delayed until later in the meeting.

Continuing the President's report, Niswonger announced that the Publications & Sales Director, Jerry Gifford, has resigned due to work demands and health problems and that a replacement is being sought. Until a replacement is found, Gifford has been instructed to get a committee together to address the backlog and to get the inventory down as far as possible.

With regard to the proposed merger of Regions 7 and 24, Niswonger stated that he has continued to receive correspondence on the subject since the fall meeting. Time has been set aside later in the meeting to examine the situation and try to arrive at resolution.

The fall meeting stimulated discussion about raising funds for the AIS, which in turn produced several workable suggestions. One suggestion, to conduct a silent auction, has been put together for a "trial run" at this convention. If successful, this could be expanded upon in the future.

Niswonger pointed out that definitive action on the establishment of the Warburton Medal was not apparent in the Fall minutes, so to clarify, he asked for a formal motion to authorize the establishment and the striking of the Medal. J. Plank so moved, Harder seconded, motion carried. It was noted that AIS has received over \$2,000 towards the funding of this medal and Niswonger asked those present to encourage their clubs to make a donation.

Niswonger reported receiving a request to order RHS color charts in conjunction with other plant societies to qualify for a discounted price. Harder remarked that there are no quantity discounts available. Mahan suggested that the information on how to obtain the charts be made available, but that no charts be purchased for resale.

The World Iris Society position paper has been drafted and a site has been established on the world wide web.

Niswonger reported that a request has been made that AIS soften its policy on scientific papers so as not to discourage submission for publication in the Bulletin.

Secretary Plank, referring to her written report distributed earlier, emphasized the recommendation that the AIS increase promotion of its various special funds, such as the Scholarship and Library Funds.

Plank reported that the AIS has received an announcement from the New Zealand Iris Society that they will celebrate their 50 year jubilee in year 2000. An invitation was extended to all AIS members to begin now to make plans to attend the celebration.

Lowe asked if J. Plank had contacted the previous secretary for the collection of AIS Bulletins in her possession as called for in the minutes. J. Plank reported contact was made and that she has been promised that the Bulletins will be forwarded.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Harlow reviewed her written report forwarded to Board members in advance of this meeting. She said that we entered 1996 with 7,878 members, 700 did not renew in March. With new memberships received since then, total AIS membership is at 7,452 as of March 31, 1997. M. Lowe noted that Harlow had asked that the new membership year be allowed to stand for a one year trial period without modification. Harlow said that the calendar year membership is working well and recommended that it remain in place.

It was noted that a new membership application that can be economically produced is needed. On a motion by M. Lowe, seconded by J. Plank, carried, the Board approved reprinting of the membership application, adding an option to choose when the membership will begin. The bid for printing of the brochure will be submitted to Executive Committee in the interest of saving time.

Following discussion during which the possibility of initiating the use of charge card dues payment was examined. Harlow was asked to explore this option, with input from Treasurer Nichols, and to report the findings to the Executive Committee for decision. If it is found to be feasible to accept charge payments, the goal is to be operational by January 1st.

Corlew noted a recommendation in Harlow's report that we advertise in gardening magazines. Mahan moved that ads be placed in Flower and Garden, Horticulture and the American Hemerocallis Society Bulletin and that ads be placed for one year with coded box numbers for evaluating results. Stahly seconded, motion carried. Probst

suggested that we work with the plant societies for reciprocal advertising (i.e. Hemerocallis, Hosta, Dahlia, Rose, Orchid, societies).

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Nichols distributed copies of the interim financial report. Before addressing several points of importance in the report, Nichols called attention to the importance of the AIS internet web site to the growth and development of the organization. She recommends that our web site address be on every piece of information produced by the AIS and further, that the growers also be asked to include this information when promoting the AIS.

After reviewing the income, expenditures and total cash balance for the interim, Nichols pointed out that the decrease in membership income of about 35% was anticipated due to some members purchasing memberships at the old rate in advance of the increase.

Nichols called attention to several areas in which the problems involving the Publication Sales office has adversely affected the AIS financial position.

M. Lowe questioned how the Board decision to set aside money towards a regular audit cycle will be implemented. Nichols responded that as funds are available, she will put some aside for an audit. She offered copies of the the current audit statement.

In response to a question about the amount of money to be shifted from the AIS General Fund toward replenishing the Life Membership Fund, Nichols stated that she recommends none be shifted at this time. Stahly remarked that the Board had agreed that a footnote be included on each budget report which states how much money had been borrowed from the restricted Life Membership fund. Nichols acknowledged that this had been omitted on the current statement.

Nichols read a draft mission statement she was asked to create for AIS. Nichols added her personal remarks on the importance of having a stated mission and stated goals in order to move forward.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT:

Registrar Keppel's written report was distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. Secretary Plank reviewed the report's recommendations in Keppel's absence: revision of the registration form; reprinting the AIS Bulletin article on how to register an iris, and the immediate formation of a committee to begin the electronic checklist project, since both the decade and the millennium will soon be upon us. In addition, Keppel recommends revision of the policy regarding the length of time an iris name may be reserved, changing the time from 5 years to 3 years. Harder moved, Miller seconded that the maximum time for holding an iris name in reserve be changed from 5 years to 3 years. After discussion, Harder amended his motion to allow a year's time for input from interested parties before this change goes into effect, Miller seconded, motion carried. Keppel will be asked to write an article with regard to this change.

On Keppel's recommendation, Witt moved, Corlew seconded that fragrance be listed as an optional item on the registration form. Motion carried.

Stahly informed the Board that Howard Hughes of Region. 6, acting under his own initiative, has combined all Checklist and R & I listings from 1929 to 1996 into one computer file, and that all detail for the letter "A" has been completed. Hughes requested Board approval to proceed further, given that the material is AIS copyrighted. After much discussion over the scope of the work, by consensus, the Board authorizes Howard Hughes to proceed with Keppel as coordinator for the work and the assistance of volunteers as needed. Stahly added that any printing can proceed only with Board approval.

Plank moved, Pope seconded that an Electronic Registrations Committee be formed, as an ad hoc committee, using the members of the current Registrations Committee in addition to Howard Hughes and Donna Spears and any volunteers who may come forward. Motion carried.

Stahly moved, Waters seconded, that the reprinting in the Bulletin of "How to Register an Iris", with or without the proposed changes, be left to the discretion of Keppel and Aitken. Motion carried.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES — BY-LAWS REVISION:

Chairman, R. Plank reported that the most recent recommendations from the By-Laws Revision Committee were distributed in advance to Board members, RVP's, Committee Chairs, Section Leaders, Cooperating Society leaders, as well as some additional interested parties. He read aloud a minor clarification received late and distributed to Board members just prior to the opening session of the meeting. R. Plank recommended approval of the proposed Bylaw changes and related policy statements. Upon approval, a ballot will be developed to be mailed with the July Bulletin.

Following discussion, Stahly moved, Moller seconded, to approve the AIS By-laws changes as presented—including the addendum—for dissemination to the membership. Motion carried. Stahly moved, J. Plank seconded, to approve the policy statements included in R. Plank's report. Motion carried. Lowe noted that policy changes are effective when the minutes in which those changes are reported are approved at the next Board meeting.

Policy Statements -

1. Policy with regard to SELECTING NOMINEES from the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee:

The AIS Board of Directors,

a. Believing that candid discussion of the qualifications of candidates for officers or members of the AIS Board during the period immediately preceding voting is in the best interests of the AIS and

b. Believing that some voting members may be reluctant to discuss candidly the qualifications of candidates for office in the presence of such candidates; and

c. Believing that candidates eligible to vote in the election must be allowed to do so, therefore

Issues this statement of basic governing principles:

Candidates for office or vacancies on the AIS Board shall be excused from the room during discussion of their qualifications, and Candidates excused during discussion of qualifications shall be called back and allowed to vote.

2. Policy with regard to the use of a SECRET BALLOT

The AIS Board of Directors,

a. Believing that the independent exercise of individual judgment in the selection of officers or members of the AIS Board is in the best interests of the AIS, and

b. Believing that some voting members may be reluctant to vote their conscience in an open meeting, and

c. Believing that some voting members may be reluctant to vote their conscience if forced to state their preferences on a personally handwritten ballot; therefore

Issues this statement of basic governing principles:

Voting for the election of officers or members of the AIS Board of Directors shall be by uniform, fully preprinted secret ballot requiring only marks to indicate preferences.

3. Policy with regard to a DIRECTOR'S SECOND THREE YEAR TERM NOT AUTOMATIC

The AIS Board of Directors,

a. Believing that the AIS membership at large includes a significant number of individuals who are keenly interested in, highly qualified for, and fully capable of, distinguished service on the AIS Board of Directors; and

b. Believing that renomination for a second term should be in recognition of outstanding performance of assigned individual and committee duties; therefore

Issues this statement of basic governing principles:

Consideration for a second term as director following a first three year term shall be at the discretion of the Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors.

From the audience, A. Lowe requested that the minutes show appreciation for the work done by R. Plank in preparing these proposed By-Laws and Policy changes.

PUBLICATIONS & SALES:

Paul Gosset reported that all old Bulletins have been sold, with the exception of a few that will be offered in the next Bulletin and that excess copies of the 1996 Bulletins will be held until the beginning of 1998.

AWARDS SYSTEM:

Roy Epperson reported that copies of the Award System Guidelines with a cover letter inviting comments and suggestions had been forwarded to the Board, RVP and, Section Presidents, Cooperating Society Presidents, Committee Chairs and other interested parties in advance of this meeting. He has received expressions of concern in regard to: 1. The large number of cultivars eligible for HMs in the SDB and TB classes; 2. The small number HM's available in other classes.; 3. Finding an equitable way to insure that the Dykes Medal list will include 3 eligible TB cultivars each ballot; 4. The too few numbers of eligible cultivars in the species and species cross classes.

Epperson is continuing to solicit recommendations and intends to present said recommendations at the fall Board meeting.

JUDGES HANDBOOK REVISION:

Chairman of Judges Corlew reported that Roy Epperson has taken over the Judges Handbook Revision chairmanship. Epperson reported that that his committee has established objectives and a timeline. Consideration has been allowed for Board approval of proposed revisions at both the Fall, 1997 and Spring, 1998 meetings. Publication will be accomplished in 1998. Based upon the current number of judges and past demand, Epperson will get quotes for printing 2,000 handbooks, and also in increments of 500.

SCIENTIFIC PAPERS:

Niswonger read an amended version of the Bulletin technical paper publishing policy statement. The revised statement "softens" the language used in the original policy statement in an effort to enable more papers to be eligible for publication and to encourage more authors of scientific or technical articles to consider submitting their work. On a motion by Stahly, seconded by Corlew, carried, the Board approved of the revised technical paper publishing policy as presented.

AFFILIATES:

Affiliates Chairman, Pope reviewed her written report. A total of 168 approved AIS affiliates has received approval to date.

AWARDS:

Awards Chairman Wilhoit announced that 841 Judges' ballots were mailed in March. She noted that the Regional counters were changed after receiving complaints from

people who did not believe that counters should be tallying their own region's ballots.

EXHIBITIONS:

Exhibitions Chairman Moller reported that former chairman Gristwood had forwarded all information to him in December. Because Exhibition supplies were low, heavy restocking orders were necessary. He reported that our charge to the affiliates for exhibition supplies had been close to cost and did not include shipping costs. In an effort to make things more cost effective, Moller has increased Exhibition item prices by 25% with no negative effect.

EDITOR'S REPORT:

In response to concerns voiced regarding layout rates, Editor Aitken distributed a proposed price schedule for ad layouts. Camera ready ads will be accepted per the schedule, and a service charge imposed when special work is required. The proposed schedule was designed to reflect the increased time needed to set-up some ads, yet remain attractive for most advertisers. On a motion by Miller, seconded by Probst, carried, the Board adopted the proposed pricing policy for advertising other than color as submitted. Aitken will prepare a color schedule to be submitted for Board approval at the following morning session.

The Board discussed various aspects of publishing the Bulletin, including: font type and size, content, white space and color.

The Board considered the position of Advertising Editor and how it could be made more efficient and meaningful given today's technology. It was suggested that the position's most valuable function might be to serve as a liaison between advertisers and editor as well as being an active sales solicitor.

The discussion on the topic of paid employees prompted Mahan to relate that his efforts to solicit opinions on cost savings, found that most people did not believe the salaried personnel should be affected unless the job becomes vacant. He said that there is a high satisfaction level with both the offices of the Membership Secretary and Registrar, both salaried positions. Niswonger asked the Board if they believed we should create a personnel committee to review jobs and salaries on an on-going basis. Stahly moved, Waters seconded that the questions raised be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration over the summer and with their recommendations for studying the issue brought back to the Fall Board meeting. Motion carried.

HISTORIAN REPORT:

Harder reports that he continues to send material to Keppel and to Keith McNames, recently appointed Library Chairman.

The ongoing inventory processing of library material, and the reduction of duplicated materials was discussed. Niswonger read of a list of such materials that have been submitted for possible inclusion in the silent auction to be held at the convention (noting that there are two additional copies of each item remaining in the library inventory). Corlew moved, Pope seconded that the items as listed be added to the silent auction. Motion carried. Witt moved, Probst seconded that the proceeds from items donated out of the AIS library go back to the library fund. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm, reconvened at 8:15 am, June 4

INSURANCE REPORT:

Michelle Snyder reported that she had written an article published in the April, 1997 AIS Bulletin explaining the AIS insurance policy and how to request a certificate of insurance.

Harder reported that the American Hemerocallis Society has realized a large savings in insurance costs by changing carriers. He was asked to forward this

information to Snyder.

JUDGES TRAINING:

Corlew reported that everything is functioning as usual.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST:

Miller reported receiving good response for this year's contest from affiliates, but not from individuals which she believes is caused by some confusion on the rules. She requested that a reminder about the contest be printed in the October Bulletin.

POLICY:

M. Lowe reported that some Ad Hoc committees are "dangling", still in force, but not active. He will try to contact those involved to determine the status of the committee. He also said that he is working on compiling all AIS policy into one computer file that may be easily searched and which would be available upon request to anyone with a computer.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Waters reported that the annual Horticulture article on award winners appeared in April and that she responded to any written requests for information. She also reported that the AIS Display Screen has been enjoying heavy use, and that the 2-screen system is working well.

Waters said that she had sent out requests for pre-orders for the 1998 AIS calendars and has orders in hand. Waters expressed regret that calendar sales were off for 1997, due in part to problems in the Sales Office. Waters recommends that the calendar prices remain at \$3/each in quantities of 10, with a \$5 shipping charge for each calendar order.

Niswonger reported receiving a request from the Iris Society of Massachusetts, that irises used on the calendar be named and that the calendars reflect more beardless irises. The Board discussed the reasons for the policy of not naming the irises and noted that non-bearded irises were amply represented in the 1997 calendar.

ROBINS:

J. Plank reported for Cross that she recommends the formation of more regional robins and is looking for a volunteer to become director for an international robin, since there is much interest in a robin of that type.

SCIENTIFIC REPORT:

No new business. Dr. Fulton reports that Dr. McEwen continues in his study of apogon disease.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Witt reported donations to the scholarship fund from New Mexico (\$1,000), a William Hannon (\$100), and the King Co. Iris Society (\$500). Witt reports eighteen applicants for scholarship funds were received. Witt submitted the names and projects of two applicants selected by the committee from which to chose this year's scholarship recipient. On a motion by Miller, seconded by Mahan, carried, the Board approved of the applications of Aaron Roderiguez for the study of the genus tigridia and John Burke for a study on Louisiana irises. Niswonger observed that we are not finding applicants to work on projects important to irisarians, and he invited various groups and individuals to consider underwriting research projects. Wilhoit stated that research is urgently needed on how to prevent irisborer damage in the north and east.

SLIDE REPORT:

B. Nichols reported for H. Nichols that he has received 50 requests for slides since January, with heaviest demand for Iris Trivia, The Popularity Poll and The Newest in Irises. Nichols acknowledged two generous donations of slides by Mary

Dunn (Reg. 14) and Betty Jamison (Reg. 22), and requested that a thank you letter be sent to each on behalf of the AIS Board.

YOUTH:

J. Morris reported on the winners of the 1997 Clarke Cosgrove Award: 1st place Erin Marie Griner, Reg. 19, 2nd Shilo Gillam Reg. 18, and a tie for 3rd place between Kay Weathers Reg. 5 and Jessica Lynn Braeuner Reg. 18. She further reported there are six new Regional Youth Chairmen and several regions now have a youth regional newsletter. Morris reminded those present that she has classroom packets available for those who will be speaking at schools which enable a class to become members of AIS.

RARE IRIS STUDY:

Niswonger stated for the record that the Rare Iris Study Committee is an ad hoc, rather than a standing committee, that was created to take inventory of what species iris exist and are available. J. Plank reported for Dr. Waddick that he continues to work with Dr. Rodionenko.

RVP COUNSELOR'S REPORT:

Stahly reported that at the RVP meeting held the previous night the following RVPs were elected to serve as officers for the Board of Counselors for the coming year: Anne Lowe, RVP representative; Herb Holk and Karen Bergamo, Personnel (Nominating) Committee; Mary Thurman, Chairman of the Board of Counselors, and Lorena Reid, Secretary.

Stahly said that topics discussed included: encouraging youth membership, the status of the Judges Handbook and the Awards and Ballots system revision, the By-Laws revisions report, and Regional Incorporation.

In response to a report that the Ackerman Youth Fund has run out of money, it was agreed that each RVP should return to his or her region with the recommendation that the Region contribute \$100 to this fund, if affordable.

There was considerable discussion about the lack of responsibility on the part of some RVPs. Stahly reported that both the Membership and Affiliate Chairman spoke the subject, saying that they have no contact at all with some RVPs.

Stahly said that the RVPs discussed the awarding of RVP pins and have suggested that they not be awarded when the RVP did not perform basic duties. He said that the RVPs passed a resolution asking that the Board to consider that AIS no longer pay for a pin for outgoing RVPs but make them available as a sale item for those Regions wishing to honor an outgoing RVP. In response to the Board of Counselor's request, Mahan moved, Miller seconded that the Board act in accordance with this recommendation.

In discussion, A. Lowe expressed her opinion that any sanctions should not come from the Region, but rather from the Board. She said that it is up to the various chairs to report to the Board when they are not getting a response from an RVP and the Board may then wish to decline to reappoint that RVP. Stahly moved, J. Plank seconded that the motion be tabled and the question be studied. Motion carried.

AIS CONVENTIONS:

After reporting on conventions previously scheduled, Convention Liaison Mahan moved, Stahly seconded, that the following additional convention sites be approved:

2004	Spartanburg, SC
2005	St. Louis, MO
2006	Portland, OR

Motion carried.

After a short break the Board reconvened at 10:20 am.

FOUNDATION:

Foundation Liaison Mazur reported approval of two grants, one to Dr. Rodionenko on species and one to Dr. McEwen to finish his study on iris diseases. He said that an Evelyn Jones Library Fund has been established in her memory and that a donation was collected for the Ackerman Fund.

Mazur observed that there is confusion between the AIS and the AIS Foundation giving rise to misdirected donations.

Newly elected AIS Foundation Board Members are Will Plotner and Cal Reuter. Dick Bulter was reelected as President.

SECTION LIASION:

Probst reported that R. Hollingworth was elected at the previous night's meeting to serve on the AIS Nominating Committee.

Probst said that the sections discussed the rotation of meetings at the AIS Convention in order to avoid conflicts. He said there was considerable discussion on the difference between a Section and a Cooperating Society, the main difference being a requirement that members of Sections also be members of AIS. This requirement was discussed at length, and it was acknowledged that this is not the case in practice, and that therefore, the distinction between the two bodies has gradually diminished. M. Lowe suggested that one distinction is pro bono advertising to sections.

WORLD IRIS SOCIETY:

M. Lowe reported that the web page for the WIS is in place at (<http://www.worldiris.com>). He asks that anyone who has material that may be useful to this page, to please contact him.

TAX EXEMPT:

D. Niswonger reported that Region 14 has requested tax exempt status, based on research they have conducted which advises that subordinate organizations to a tax exempt organization may enjoy that status by virtue of a letter from the parent organization to the IRS, providing they meet certain requirements. R. Plank added that he has asked experts from his law firm to research the question. He recommended that the Board approve Region 14's request conditionally, that this be implemented, barring any negative findings, with final Board approval in the Fall to send a letter to the IRS. Sutton moved, Miller seconded that the Board proceed with the request from Region 14, using it as a pilot, and that if there are no negative findings and Board approval is granted in the Fall, other Regions will be invited to use this means to establish tax exempt status. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Niswonger referred back to his Presidential Message where he spoke of the AIS's need to raise funds, and posed the desirability of forming a Ways and Means Committee to study how that may be accomplished. Corlew moved, J. Plank seconded that AIS create a standing committee to handle ways and means. Motion carried. Niswonger asked for the names of volunteers to serve on this committee.

ARIL PUBLICATION:

On a motion by J. Plank, seconded by Probst, carried, the Board granted approval of Sharon McAllistor's request that the checklist she prepared be made available for printing to any group wishing to do so.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Witt submitted the names of candidates for nomination for election to the Board.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:30 am followed by their standard lunch break, reconvening at 1:45 pm.

Niswonger announced the following candidates were selected as nominees for election to the Board; Dr. Roy Epperson, Maxine Perkins, Paul Gosset and Jean Morris.

COLOR ADS:

Aitken submitted the following proposed rates for color ads for the Bulletin based upon location:

Back cover:	\$500	Inside front:	\$425
Inside back:	\$400	Centerfold:	\$400
Regular page:	\$275	multiple std.:	\$250
Mini ads:	\$150, on a space-available basis.		

Aitken moved, Waters seconded, that the above schedule be accepted, effective with the October Bulletin. Motion carried.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Nichols proposed the following Mission Statement including specific strategic plans and action plans on how to get there:

Mission Statement

"The American Iris Society is a non-profit institution, incorporated in February, 1927 in the County of Philadelphia, state of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the charter, the corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of providing for the culture and improvement of the iris. This organization should provide an avenue of communication and guidance to our membership, youth, scientific research and our affiliate sections and regions through exceptional publications and national and local activities that enhance all types of irises, keeping a grasp on the past while moving forward."

Strategic Plans

1. To increase membership

Action Plan: promotional means, share with other associations

2. To maintain solvency

Action Plan: Ways and Means—alternative revenue outside the membership dues

3. To provide avenues for iris research

Action Plan: To encourage contribution of funds devoted to research

4. To develop youth knowledge

Action Plan: to promote youth with contests and prizes and scholarship plan

5. To enlighten and educate the general public

Action Plan: have a positive attitude, donate rhizomes, support plantings at civic buildings.

Nichols recommended that when a Mission Statement/Goals Statement is adopted, it be printed for every member and included with all new member packets.

Epperson suggested that the effort be "adopted in principle", with a completed statement presented at the fall meeting following input from the RVPs and other interested parties.

On a motion by Mahan, seconded by Harder, carried, the Mission Statement proposal was adopted in principle, with direction that a rough draft be sent to RVPs, Section Chairman and other interested parties and that the statement be printed in the Bulletin soliciting comments and input. Motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Niswonger requested approval for the appointments of J. Plank and R. Probst to serve as Board representatives on the 1998 Nominating Committee: J. Plank and R. Probst. Lowe moved that nominations be approved, Pope seconded, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Niswonger reported that the Fall Board meeting is scheduled for October 31, November 1 and 2 at Fourpoints Hotel in Austin, TX.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REQUEST:

On a motion by Corlew, seconded by J. Plank, carried, the Board approved of M. Lowes request for approval to copy and distribute copyrighted articles to individual members who may request same.

After a short break, the meeting reconvened.

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES:

Merger Question Involving Regions 24 and 7:

Niswonger reported that he has received requests to revisit the topic of the merger of Regions 24 and 7. He pointed out that although he received correspondence requesting that Mississippi be annexed to Region 7, several of the affiliates let their opposition to such a merger be known. Furthermore, the merger proposal has actually stimulated activity in Region 24 and they are working hard to revive their area. The issue was once again discussed.

Probst moved, Witt seconded that Mississippi merge with Region 7. Motion defeated. Sutton moved, Pope seconded that the request to merge the area North of the Tennessee River with Region 7 be denied. Motion carried.

Staten Island, Region 2, Region 19 and Region 3:

Niswonger reported that after consulting with Kathy Guest, RVP of Region 2, and Nancy Szurmira of Region 19, it was learned that there are currently no active AIS members on Staten Island and it has been recommended that SI be reunited with Region 2. Region 19, meanwhile, is requesting to merge with Region 3. Niswonger said that that request is under discussion with the Regions involved.

Miller moved, Corlew seconded, that Staten Island be reunited with Region 2. Motion carried.

Sutton moved, Miller seconded that an ad hoc committee be formed to study and make recommendations on the geographical boundaries of AIS. Motion carried. Niswonger will proceed with appointment to this committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

Niswonger thanked Region 6, the Iris Club of Southeast Michigan for hosting this convention. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

ADDENDUM:

Following adjournment of the AIS Board of Directors, a recommendation was received by President Niswonger from the SIGNA Board regarding the "Founders of SIGNA" and the "Randolph-Perry" medals. President Niswonger polled a majority of the AIS members of the Board and the recommendation was approved as follows:

1) The Founders of SIGNA and Randolph-Perry Medals should be awarded for the first time in the year 2000 (1999 ballot) and not in 1998.

2) Eligibility of the cultivars PARTY LINE and PINK PEAKS for the Founders of SIGNA Medal and ASIAN ALLIANCE for the Randolph-Perry Medal listed on the 1997 Ballot should be extended with the 1999 ballot being considered their first year of eligibility and the 2001 ballot being their last year of eligibility.

Therefore, any candidate listed as eligible for these medals on the 1999 ballot will have 3 years of eligibility for the medals.

3) Voting for the Founders of SIGNA and Randolph-Perry Medals will not occur until the 1999 official ballot.

4) To avoid possible confusion in the 1997 Official Ballot, the vote for these awards SHOULD NOT BE announced in any form.

- Kathy Guest, Recording Secretary

AIS

Contributions in Memory of:

February 17, 1997 - July 17, 1997

- All Deceased Members of I.E.I.S.* (WA)
Inland Empire Iris Society (WA)
Sam Best (CA)
 Gene & Tina Cabral (CA)
Audrey Marie Bostwick (CA)
 Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society (CA)
Ms. Ida Clark (TX)
 Fort Worth Iris Society (TX)
Wm. Robert (Bob) Dickson (KS)
 Peggy J. Chumley (OK)
 Wichita Area Iris Club (KS)
Mary Ada Faith (AR)
 Central Arkansas Iris Society
Dr. Robert K. Graham (CA)**
 SD/IC Iris Society (CA)**
Doris Greenwood (OR)
 Barbara & Terry Aitken (WA)
Lillian Gristwood (NY)
 J. Nelson & Sylvia Jones (CA)
 Alice J. Kudrna (IL)
 Sara & Walter Marley (VA)
 Jeanne & Bob Plank (CA)***
 Olive & George Waters (CA)
Earl Guthrie (TX)
 Fort Worth Iris Society (TX)
Marjorie Harris (KS)
 Wichita Area Iris Club (KS)
Don Herzberg (VA)
 Sara & Walter Marley (VA)
Evelyn Jones (OR)
 Ellen & Tom Abrego (OR)*
 Barbara & Terry Aitken (WA)*
 AIS Tri-City Chapter (WA)*
 Chehalem Gardens (OR)*
 Nell & Glenn Corlew (CA)*
 LaVern & Ralph Conrad (CA)*
 Dona Fort (WA)*
 Ann L. Fyhr (OR)*
 Patricia H. Fyhr (OR)*
 Paul W. Gossett (OK)*
 Greater Portland Iris Society (OR)*
 Mildred (Millie) Grow (WA)*
 Frances E. Hawk (WA)*
 Inland Iris Society (WA)*
 Warren & Betty Johnson (OR)*
 Charlotte Keasey (OR)*
 King County I.S. (WA)*
 Suky & Clarence Mahan (VA)*
 Sara & Walter Marley (VA)*
 Keith M. McNames (OR)*
 Stan & Debbie Minnick (MO)*
 Wayne & Sally Minnick (MO)*
 Mt. Diablo Iris Society (CA)*
 Suzanne & Walter Nupen (OR)*
 Jean Peyrard (France)*
 Lester & Rosemary Phillips (OR)*
 Jeanne & Bob Plank (CA)*
 Mary E. Prickett (OR)*
 Barbara & David Schmieder (MA)*
 Ruth M. Schulze (OR)*
 Schreiner's Gardens (OR)*
 Howard Schultz & Associates, Inc (TX)*
 Irene Shockey (NM)*
 Roberta Shoop (OR)*
 Jim & Marky Smith (WA)*
 Ruth & George Stevens (OR)*
 Ruth Strickler (KS)*
 Ellen B. Sullivan (TX)*
 Town & Country Iris Society (WA)*
 Joe & Geraldine Watt (OR)*
 Kenneth & Agnes Waite, Sr. (MA)*
Elda Ruth Keith (NM)
 Roswell Iris Society (NM)
Ann M. Long (CO)
 Region 20 - AIS (CO)
Joseph Mertzweiller (LA)
 Bob & Mary Dunn (CA)

Maryln Miller (NM)
 Roswell Iris Society (NM)
Alma Niswonger (MO)
 Opal & Van Harris (MO)
 Jeanne & Bob Plank (CA)•
Polly Owen (TX)
 Benson Iris Society (TX)
Mrs. Ivy Peterson (KS)
 Wichita Area Iris Club (KS)
Richard Pettijohn (NE)
 Bob & Mary Dunn (CA)
Divera Propper (OK)
 Tulsa Area Iris Society (OK)
Jane Smith (MI)
 Southwestern Michigan I.S.
Lorraine D. Stratton (CA)
 Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society (CA)

Contributions to:
AIS Scholarship Fund **
 New Mexico Iris Society (NM)**
 Wm R. Hannon (NY)**
 King County I.S. (WA)**
CCM Youth Fund ****
 Kirkwood Iris Society (MO)****
 Inland Iris Society (CA)****
Library Fund *
 Sooner State IS/Keith Keppel*
 AIS Tri-City Chapter (WA)*
 Chesapeake & Potomac I.S. (MD)*
 Wm R. Hannan (NY)*
 Jean Peyrard (France)*
Warburton Memorial Medal Fund •
 Barbara & David Schmieder (MA)•
Youth Essay Contest
 Wm R. Hannon (NY)

Symbol Designations:

* The A.I.S. Library Fund
 ** A. I. S. Research and Scholarship Fund
 *** BULLETIN Color Fund

**** Clarke Cosgrove Youth Achievement Award
 • Warburton Memorial Medal Fund

How Can You Make a Contribution or Memorial Gift?

Contributions to the *AIS Foundation* are used for research of the genus *Iris*, including the taxonomy, the causes of disease and cures, administration of scholarships and the support of the AIS library through the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund. These are reported in the January & July Bulletins.

Contributions to the *American Iris Society* go into the AIS general funds to be used as operating expenses and can be earmarked for short term projects in the budget, and are reported in the April & October Bulletins.

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society or the American Iris Society Foundation. Donations are tax deductible. When sending a memorial gift, please include name and address of next-of-kin, so that a card of acknowledgment may be sent. Send to:

American Iris Society
 Jeanne Plank, Secretary
 8426 Vine Valley Dr
 Sun Valley, CA 91352-3656

or
 AIS Foundation
 Roger P. Mazur, Treasurer
 5824 Erskine #7
 Omaha, NE 68104-4159

In Memoriam

D.C. Nearpass (Maryland)
Bob Dickson (Kansas)
Mary Dunn (California)
G. Stuart Hodge (Massachusetts)
W.F. Scott Jr. (California)

Joseph Mertzweiller (Louisiana)
Ralph T. Bullard (Georgia)
Jane Smith (Michigan)
Lola M. Nelson (Iowa)

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

\$20.00 *The World of Irises*

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 526 pages.

\$6.00 *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*

\$2.50 ea., or *Basic Iris Culture.* Pamphlets. Great information
\$15.00 for 25 for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs or shows.

\$4.50 *AIS Bulletins: Back Issues* (not all issues available)

\$10.00 *1994 AIS Membership Book.*

A complete listing of members of AIS, including addresses.

\$10.00 ea. *Check Lists: 1939, 1949, 1959, & 1969*
 Reprint. Soft cover.

\$17.00 *Check List, 1979*
 Reprint. Ten-year compilation of registrations 1970 - 1979.

\$15.00 *Check List, 1989*
 Ten-year compilation of registrations 1980 - 1989.

\$6.00 ea. *Registrations and Introductions:*
 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996.

\$2.50 *Bronze 50th Anniversary Medals*
 The AIS 50th Anniversary medal in antiqued bronze. Suitable for pendants, show prizes, and special awards.

Special! While They Last!

\$2.00 ea., or 5 for \$5.00

1996 & 1997 Calenders

75th Anniversary Collection

\$25.00

Commemorative Medal

Solid Silver, 1 ½ inches across. Only 500 struck.

\$3.00

Poster

\$7.50

Bulletin

\$2.50 per pack

AIS Seals

\$10.00 for 5 packs

Self-adhesive ovals larger than a half dollar, official design in blue and green on silver background. (50 per pack)

1998 Iris Calendar

\$5.00 each (+\$1.00 shipping)

\$30.00 (+\$3.00 shipping) for packs of 10

\$4.00, 1 pack

Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)

\$10.00, 3 packs

\$25.00, 10 packs

Prices include postage and handling. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society. Send order to:

Irv & Nancy Pocklington

Phone: (217) 854-2184

609 Harrington St

Carlinville, IL 62626-1230

Special offer on 1996 AIS Bulletin Back Issues

\$5.00 10 Bulletins

\$8.00 40 Bulletins

\$6.00 20 Bulletins

\$9.00 50 Bulletins

\$7.00 30 Bulletins

\$10.00 60 Bulletins

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AIS Slide Sets available for 1997:

The Newest in Irises: 1992 – 1996 Introductions. Mostly TBs, but contains other types.

Recent Award Winners: HM and AM Winners, 1992 – 1995

The Popularity Poll: Favorite 100 irises as reflected by the 1996 AIS Symposium

Types other than Tall Bearded: Bearded and beardless, arranged in blooming sequence.

Reliables: Mostly past award winners of various types — especially suited for newer iris societies and garden clubs.

1994 Portland Iris Convention

1995 York Iris Convention

Iris Trivia: This is a small set of slides and questions that can be used for a fun and informative meeting. (Use of all questions and slides takes at least one hour.)

To Order: Requests for slides should be made well in advance of requested date, preferably six to eight weeks. If optional, specify alternate sets and/or dates. Clearly *print* name and mailing address to whom slides are to be sent. Rental fee is \$7.50 per set, payable to AIS. Only one set allowed for any request date. AIS Affiliate Societies are entitled to one free set per calendar year. Slide sets are to be returned next day after viewing by *Priority Mail*. Send check with request to:

Hooker Nichols Phone: (214) 352-2191
3365 Northaven Rd.
Dallas, TX 75229

Section Slides Available:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-7111.
Check to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Joan Cooper,
212 West Country Rd. C, St. Paul, MN 55113. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053.
Check to Japanese Iris Society.

Louisiana: Order from Dalton Durio, Route 7, Box 43, Opelousas, LA 70570.
Check to Society for Louisiana Irises. Rental fee is \$10.00.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check to MIS.

Rebloomers: Contact Olive Rice-Waters, 1914 Napa Ave, Berkeley, CA 94707.
Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Thomas Abrego, P.O. Box 693, Newberg, OR 97132.
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\$42.00	$\frac{15}{16}$ inch
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Payment is due with ad copy. Ads due: July 15 (Oct. issue), October 15 (Jan. issue), January 15 (Apr. issue), April 15 (Jul. issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to:

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Bulletin of the AIS Shopping Section

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Award winning Irises

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\$2.⁰⁰ for Color Catalog

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Shopping Section



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gardens available
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N1H 6H7 (519)856-4424

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Over 2000 total IRIS

Rebloomers, Historical

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TB BB IB SDB RE SA

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Shopping Section

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*Separate median and
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Hardy, Top Quality Plants
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MDBs, SDBs, MTBs,
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REBLOOMERS

Display garden includes Louisiana's,
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**See Page 96
For Ad Rates**

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Over 500
Newer, Hardy TB
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Irises at Affordable
Prices.

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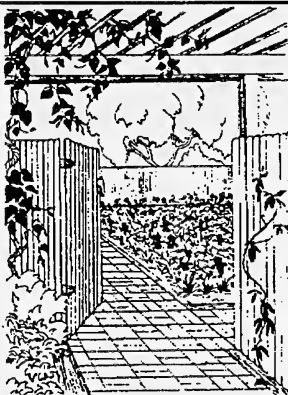
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Shopping Section

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**Japanese, Siberian,
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Shopping Section

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Tall Bearded,
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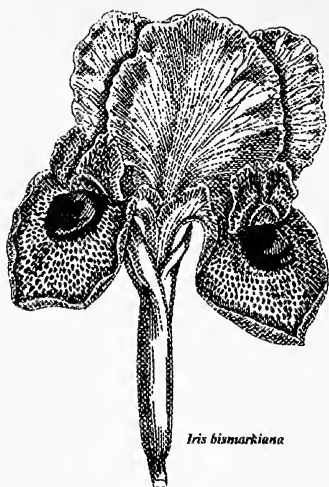
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VAVOOM (Ensiminger '94), SDB, winner of Franklin Cook Memorial Cup.



Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXVIII, No. 3

Series No. 306, Section 2

July, 1997

The American Iris Society **1998 Symposium** *of Tall Bearded Iris*

Ballot

Please vote for your favorite 25 Tall Bearded Iris Varieties

ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY ARE URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN this ballot in order that we may obtain a wide consensus of the tall bearded iris varieties that grow and bloom best in gardens throughout America. Mail the completed ballot to your RVP by September 1, 1997. Final results will be published as the popularity poll in a future issue of the Bulletin. Please vote!

ATTENTION: *Overseas Members* are invited to vote the Symposium Ballot. Instructions on the following page.

Please Vote

Fifty Eighth Official Tall Bearded Iris Symposium of the American Iris Society 1998

This is your ballot to help determine the One Hundred Favorite Tall Bearded Irises for 1998. The list of candidates was completed by combining the following lists of outstanding varieties:

- The 100 top varieties in last year's Symposium
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 1997 Wister Medal
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 1997 Dykes Medal
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 1997 Awards of Merit
- The tall bearded irises that won 1996 Awards of Merit
- The tall bearded irises that won 1996 Honorable Mentions

Every member of The American Iris Society may participate in this balloting of the 459 irises listed on the following pages. Each member is allowed twenty-five votes. Please follow the instructions below.

1. Vote only for an iris that you have seen blooming in a garden.
2. Clearly place an "X" in front of each of your twenty-five favorites. The second member of a family membership should use an "O" symbol to designate votes. Additional, family or youth members should use a number (1, 2, 3, etc.) in front of each vote to identify it. Each member is entitled to a maximum of twenty-five votes. Since the ballot is designed for easy tabulation by the Regional Vice Presidents, please follow directions carefully.
3. No member may vote for more than twenty-five varieties. You may vote for fewer than twenty-five if you wish.
4. Your ballot must be mailed to your Regional Vice President by September 1, 1997 in order to be counted. The name of your RVP is listed inside each AIS Bulletin. Sign your ballot and mail it first class.
5. *Overseas Members* may vote by mailing their ballot to the Awards Committee Chairman whose name and address appear inside each AIS Bulletin. It is advisable to send by Air Mail to assure receipt of your Ballot by the deadline of September 1, 1997.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

___ ABBEY ROAD	___ BELLS ARE RINGING	___ CARACAS
___ ABSTRACT ART	___ BERTWISTLE	___ CAMEL AND HONEY
___ ACAPULCO SUNSET	___ BEST BET	___ CARIBBEAN DREAM
___ ACOMA	___ BEVERLY SILLS	___ CARNIVAL SONG
___ AFFIRMATION	___ BIG BIRD	___ CASCADE SPRINGS
___ AFTERNOON DELIGHT	___ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS	___ CATALYST
___ AFTER THE BALL	___ BIRTHDAY SURPRISE	___ CELEBRATION SONG
___ AFTER THE STORM	___ BLACK AS NIGHT	___ CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE
___ AEGEAN STORM	___ BLACK TIE AFFAIR	___ CHAMPAGNE WALTZ
___ ALASKAN SEAS	___ BLENHEIM ROYAL	___ CHAMPAGNE WISHES
___ ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND	___ BLUE BALLET	___ CHANGE OF PACE
___ ALICE GOODMAN	___ BLUE CHIP PINK	___ CHAHTILLY LACE
___ ALL TOGETHER	___ BITTERSWEET JOY	___ CHATTER
___ ALTRUIST	___ BOLD LOOK	___ CHEATING HEART
___ AMADEUS	___ BOOGIE WOOGIE	___ CHER
___ AMBER TAMBOUR	___ BOY NEXT DOOR	___ CHEROKEE HERITAGE
___ AMERICA'S CUP	___ BOXWINK'S GOLDEN DREAM	___ CHEROKEE NATION
___ ANNA BELLE BABSON	___ BOSS TWEED	___ CHERRY LANE
___ ANNE GADDIE	___ BOUNTIFUL HARVEST	___ CHERRY SMOKE
___ APLOMB	___ BREAKERS	___ CHIEF QUINABY
___ APRIL IN PARIS	___ BRIDE'S HALO	___ CHIPPEWA BRAVE
___ ART FAIRE	___ BRINDLED BEAUTY	___ CHOCOLATE MARMALADE
___ ART NOUVEAU	___ BRONZETTE STAR	___ CHRISTMAS
___ ART SCHOOL ANGEL	___ BUBBLING ALONG	___ CHRISTMAS TIME
___ AUSTRIAN GARNETS	___ BUBBLING OVER	___ CITY LIGHTS
___ AUTUMN CIRCUS	___ BUSY BEING BLUE	___ CITY OF PARIS
___ AVALON SUNSET		___ CLAREHCE
___ AWAKENING	___ CABOT COVE	___ CLASSIC LOOK
	___ CAFE POLE	___ CLASSMATE
___ BABBLING BROOK	___ CAJUN BEAUTY	___ CLASSY CHASSY
___ BALCH SPRINGS	___ CALM SEA	___ CLEAR MORNING SKY
___ BALTIC STAR	___ CAMELOT ROSE	___ CLOUD BALLET
___ BAYBERRY CANDLE	___ CANHINGTON BLUEBIRD	___ CODICIL
___ BE A DREAM	___ CANNONBALL	___ COLETTE
___ BEAUTIFUL VISION	___ CAN'T ELOPE	___ COMING UP ROSES
___ BEFORE THE STORM	___ CAPTAIN'S JOY	___ COMPETITIVE EDGE

___ CONFECTIONERY
___ CONJURATION
___ COPPER CLASSIC
___ CORAL SUNSET
___ COTE D' OR
___ COUNTRY GENTLEMAN
___ CUTTING EDGE
___ CUSS A' BLUE STREAK

___ DAKOTA MOON
___ DANCE HALL DOLLY
___ DANCES WITH WOLVES
___ DAVID KEITH
___ DAWN OF CHANGE
___ DAZZLING GOLD
___ DEBBY RAIDON
___ DEGAS DANCER
___ DELTA BLUES
___ DESIGNER GOWN
___ DESIGNING WOMAN
___ DIDDLER
___ DIFFERENT APPROACH
___ DISTANT ROADS
___ DOVER BEACH
___ DRACULA'S SHADOW
___ DRUM ROLL
___ DUNISMUIR
___ DUSKY CHALLENGER

___ EAGLE'S FLIGHT
___ EASTERTIME
___ EDITH WOLFORD
___ ELECTRIC AVENUE
___ ELEGANT IMPRESSIONS
___ ELIZABETH POLDARK
___ ELSIE RICHARDSON

___ ENVOGUE
___ EPICENTER
___ EVELYN HARRIS
___ EVEHING GOWH
___ EVENING MAGIC
___ EVENING SILK
___ EVERYTHING PLUS

___ FALL FIESTA
___ FANCY STITCHES
___ FEATURE ATTRACTION
___ FEMININE FIRE
___ FESTIVE MOOD
___ FIELD OF DREAMS
___ FIESTA SONG
___ FILM FESTIVAL
___ FINALIST
___ FIREBREATH
___ FIRE ON ICE
___ FIRST INTERSTATE
___ FLIGHTS OF FANCY
___ FLY WITH ME
___ FOOTLOOSE
___ FOREIGN STATESMAN
___ FORGE FIRE
___ FRECKLED SUNSHINE
___ FRINGE BENEFITS
___ FROSTICO
___ FROSTING
___ FUJI SKIES
___ FULL MOON RISING

___ GALLANT ROGUE
___ GAY PARASOL
___ GETUP AND GO
___ GINGER SWIRL

___ GIRL NEXT DOOR
___ GNU
___ GNU AGAIN
___ GNU BLUES
___ GOD'S HANDIWOR
___ GOING MY WAY
___ GOLD FROSTING
___ GOLDKIST
___ GOOD GUY
___ GOOD SHOW
___ GRAND WALTZ
___ GRATUITY
___ GUADALAJARA
___ GUADALUPE
___ GYPSY WOMAN
___ GYPSY ROMANCE
___ GYRO

___ HALO IN CREAM
___ HALO IN GOLD
___ HALO IN ROSEWOOD
___ HANDSHAKE
___ HARVEST KING
___ HEAVENLY RAPTURE
___ HELLO DARKNESS
___ HELLO GOODBYE
___ HIGH DRAMA
___ HIGH HO SILVER
___ HILO SURF
___ HINDENBURG
___ HOLLYWOOD AND VINE
___ HOLY NIGHT
___ HONEYMOON SUITE
___ HONKY TONK BLUES
___ HORATIO

__ HOT PINK
__ HOT TO TROT

__ ICED TEA
__ IMAGINARIUM
__ IMMORTALITY
__ INDIGO PRINCES
__ IN PERSON
__ IN REVERSE
__ INSTRUCTOR
__ ISLAND DANCER
__ ISLAND SUNSET
__ ISN'T THIS SOMETHING

__ JAZZED UP
__ JAZZ FESTIVAL
__ JAZZ ME BLUE
__ JESSE'S SONG
__ JE T'AIME
__ JOHN KEARNEY
__ JOYCE TERRY
__ JUAN VALDEZ

__ KATHLEEN KAY NELSON
__ KATMANDU
__ KILT LILT
__ KINGLY DIGNITY
__ KNOCK 'EM DEAD

__ LACED COTTON
__ LACE LEGACY
__ LADY FRIEND
__ LADY JULIET
__ LARCENIST
__ LATIN LOVER
__ LEDA'S LOVER

__ LEMON MIST
__ LIFE OF RILEY
__ LIGHTNING BOLT
__ LIGHTNING STREAK
__ LION'S SHARE
__ LONESOME DOVE
__ LORILEE
__ LOVE BLUSH
__ LOYALIST
__ LUCILLE RICHARDSON
__ LULLABY OF SPRING

__ MADAME BOVARY
__ MAGICIAN'S APPRENTICE
__ MAGIC SHOW
__ MAHARISHI MANAGUA
__ MANUSCRIPT
__ MARIA TORMENA
__ MARTHA'S GOLD
__ MARY FRANCES
__ MASTER TOUCH
__ MEGABUCKS
__ MELBA HAMBLÉN
__ MELTED BUTTER
__ MESMERIZER
__ MICHIGAN PRIDE
__ MIDNIGHT DANCER
__ MIDNIGHT FRAGRANCE
__ MIND READER
__ MODERN TIMES
__ MUCH OBLIGED
__ MULBERRY PUNCH
__ MULLED WINE
__ MY SHADOW MYSTIQUE

__ NAVY BLUES
__ NEFERTITI'S DAUGHTER
__ NEPTUNE'S CLOAK
__ NEW CENTURIAN
__ NIGHT ATTACK
__ NIGHT FIRES
__ NIGHT FLAME
__ NIGHT RULER
__ NORDICA
__ NORDIC ICE
__ NORMA JEAN
__ NORTHWEST PRIDE
__ NOTABLE
__ NOTORIOUS

__ OBA OBA
__ O. K. CORRAL
__ OKLAHOMA CRUDE
__ OKTOBERFEST
__ OLYMPIAD
__ OMINOUS STRANGER
__ OPENING ACT
__ ORANGE EMBERS
__ ORANGE JEWELIUS
__ ORANGE JUBILEE
__ ORANGE SLICES
__ OREGON SKIES
__ OSAKA
__ O' SO PRETTY
__ OVERJOYED

__ PAINT IT BLACK
__ PACIFIC DESTINY
__ PARIS BLUES
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__ PEACH PICOTEE
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__ PRETTY BEGINNING
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__ PRIVATE RESERVE
__ PRIVATE STOCK
__ PRIVATE TREASURE
__ PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE
__ PROUD TRADITION
__ PURE AS GOLD
__ PURE AS THE
__ PURPLE PEPPER

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__ QUITO

__ RAINBOW GODDESS
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__ RAIN MAN
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__ RARE OCCASION
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__ RHONDA FLEMING
__ RIDE THE WIND
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__ ROLE MODEL
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__ ROSARITA
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__ SILVERADO
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__ SINISTER
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__ SOCIAL EVENT
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__ SONG OF ANGELS
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__WINNER TAKE ALL
__WINTER ADVENTURE
__WINTERLAND
__WINTER OLYMPICS

__XANTHIPPE'S HALO
__YAQUINA BLUE
__YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Important Message to All AIS Members from the Board of Directors

Notice of Proposed Amendment to the AIS Bylaws

With Ballot for Mailing

THE AIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE 1997 SPRING MEETING IN DETROIT voted to initiate a number of changes to the bylaws. The primary motivation behind the proposed amendment is to widen AIS membership participation on the Board. The proposed amendment also includes clarifications and changes to conform the bylaws to current practice.

In brief, the proposed amendment affects the following provisions:

1. Term Limits. Limits directors to two, rather than three successive three year terms. Specifies that appointments to complete more than eighteen months of an unfinished three year term shall be considered as serving one full term. Imposes a waiting period of one year for outgoing directors or officers before again becoming eligible. Automatically creates and fills board vacancies when board members become officers.

2. Nominating Committee. Requires the Nominating Committee (formerly Personnel Committee) to consider names submitted by the Board or any other member for nomination. Requires the Nominating Committee to submit to the Board a pool of names of qualified candidates at least equal to double the number of vacancies to be filled. Permits further nominations from the Board or from the floor. (The right of nomination by petition and the ensuing submission of ballots to the entire membership remains unchanged.)

3. Interim Vacancies. Requires the President to fill unexpired terms by appointment from the remaining candidates from the two most recent pools of nominees, subject to confirmation by the Board. Requires the pool to be augmented when it falls below double the number of vacancies to be filled.

4. Second Vice President. The anomalous qualifications for the Second Vice President are made the same as for the President and First Vice President. The Second Vice President is an ex-officio member of the Board.

5. Dual Membership. Family membership is redesignated dual membership in recognition of non-traditional households in which two adults may desire full membership privileges, but only one Bulletin.

6. Cooperating Societies. National or international organizations whose primary purposes are consistent with the purposes of the AIS, but whose members may or may not be members of the AIS, may be recognized by the Board as Cooperating Societies of the AIS. The AIS shall not be responsible for their debts or liabilities, and shall have no power to exercise control except by mutual written agreement as a condition of such status.

7. Salaries. Persons receiving a salary may include a Bulletin Editor, Membership Secretary, Registrar, and others who may be appointed by the Board to insure that important functions are cared for by competent persons in a timely manner.

8. Miscellaneous. Youth are defined as individuals under 19 years of age. Board of Counsellors is changed to the preferred spelling, Board of Counselors.

For a comparison of the proposed bylaws with the the full text of the present bylaws, please refer to the enclosure, Amendment to the AIS Bylaws Proposed by the AIS Board of Directors, June 3, 1997. In the comparison, unchanged text is repeated in full, unchanged. Replacements and deletions are shown in ~~strikeout font~~. New text and inserted text are underlined. Moved text is shown in **boldface**.

A two-thirds affirmative vote of the total cast is required for adoption of the proposed amendments. If adopted, the effective date of the amendment shall be October 15, 1997. Salaries of incumbents are unaffected. Existing cooperative societies are unaffected. Current memberships shall remain unaffected until expiration in accordance with their present terms. All changes affecting director and officer personnel actions shall apply equally to incumbents, starting at the Fall 1997 AIS Board Meeting, except that tenure of incumbent directors then serving out a third consecutive three year term shall not be affected. Incumbents shall continue serving until their successors are named and qualified.



Detach ballot here. Indicate vote with "x" or other mark.

Ballot
AIS Bylaws Amendment

Shall the bylaws be amended in accordance with the Amendment to the AIS Bylaws Proposed by the AIS Board of Directors dated June 3, 1997?

Member 1

Member 2

Member 3

Yes _____

Yes _____

Yes _____

No _____

No _____

No _____

Printed Name

Printed Name

Printed Name

Signature

Signature

Signature

If there is more than one member at a BULLETIN address eligible to vote, use one column each. Names may be those of any individual, library, association, or organization listed on the current membership rolls of the AIS.

On or before September 15, 1997, mail completed ballot to:

American Iris Society
Jeanne Clay Plank, Secretary
8426 Vinevalley Drive
Sun Valley, CA 91352

**AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN IRIS
SOCIETY PROPOSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JUNE 3, 1997**

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, a corporation registered in the State of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

Section 1. This corporation shall be organized and operated exclusively for purposes described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2. The purposes of the American Iris Society, hereinafter called the AIS, shall be to develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study, propagation and culture of the genus *Iris*; to stimulate and foster interest in horticultural pursuits, conservation and protection of these plants; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of the genus *Iris*, by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the AIS. These shall include but are not limited to:

- (a) encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus *Iris*, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;
- (b) collection, compilation and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding and culture of Irises; and
- (c) education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public.

Section 3. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation is authorized to pay reasonable compensation for goods and/or services rendered in furtherance of the purposes of the AIS.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any individual, library, association or organization shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. The membership of the Society shall be divided into the following classes:

- (a) single ~~annual~~ membership, which shall refer to and include individuals, libraries, associations or organizations, entitled to full membership ~~privileges;~~ privileges, and which shall be available on an annual or triennial basis;
- (b) dual membership, which shall include ~~the same parties eligible for single annual membership, except at a three-year reduced rate, entitled to full membership privileges;~~ (c) family membership, ~~annual or triennial, which shall be limited to any two members of one family not more than two individuals living at the same address, with both and which shall be available as an annual or triennial membership. Both members entitled to shall have full membership privileges, except that they shall receive only one copy of each AIS BULLETIN issue shall be sent to the family unit; BULLETIN;~~
- (d) (c) life membership, single or family; dual, non-transferable, which shall carry full membership privileges, and shall be limited to individuals;
- (e) ~~youth membership, which shall be limited to members age 18 and under, entitled to full membership privileges at a reduced rate; youth members having an AIS member parent being eligible for an additional rate reduction with only one copy of each BULLETIN issue sent to the family unit; and~~
- (f) (d) honorary life membership, which shall be granted by the AIS Board of Directors to persons who have rendered distinguished service in furtherance of the purposes of the AIS. AIS; and
- (e) youth membership, which shall be limited to individuals under 19 years of age, who shall be entitled to full membership privileges at a reduced rate. Youth members living with an adult AIS member who receives the AIS BULLETIN shall be eligible for additional rate reduction, provided the youth desires no personal copy of the BULLETIN.

Section 3. AIS members interested in a particular group of irises may establish a separate organization which may be chartered by the AIS as a Section. Membership in the AIS shall be a prerequisite to membership in any Section. Other prerequisites for obtaining and maintaining a Charter as a Section, and the privileges granted to Sections and their members, shall be determined by the AIS Board of Directors. The AIS shall not be responsible for the debts or liabilities of any of its Chartered Sections, and shall have no power to exercise control over the Section except

pursuant to any Section Charter Agreement entered into as a condition of the Charter or as provided in the Articles of Incorporation or ~~By-laws~~ Bylaws of the Section.

Section 4. An organization with purposes consistent with those of the AIS and with a majority of its membership within one AIS region shall be eligible for acceptance as an Affiliate of the AIS. The prerequisites for acceptance as an AIS Affiliate and the privileges granted shall be determined by the AIS Board of Directors. The AIS shall not be responsible for the debts or liabilities of any of its Affiliates, and shall have no power to exercise control over the Affiliate except pursuant to any Affiliation Agreement entered into as a condition of Affiliate status.

Section 5. National or international organizations whose primary purposes are consistent with the purposes of the AIS, but whose members may or may not be members of the AIS, may be recognized as Cooperating Societies of the AIS. They shall be accorded privileges determined by the AIS Board of Directors. The AIS shall not be responsible for the debts or liabilities of any of its Cooperating Societies, and shall have no power to exercise control over the Cooperating Societies except pursuant to any Cooperating Society Agreement entered into as a condition of Cooperating Society status.

ARTICLE IV - DUES

Dues for the different classes of AIS membership shall be determined by the AIS Board of Directors. Members whose dues remain unpaid after written notice has been given shall be removed from the AIS membership list without further notice.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Meetings of the AIS shall be business or general, or both held in conjunction.

Section 1 Business meetings shall deal with the financial and administrative affairs of the AIS.

- (a) Business meetings of the AIS shall be at the call of the AIS Board of Directors and notice of the time, place and purpose of such meetings shall be mailed to the AIS membership at least thirty days in advance of such meetings.
- (b) Business meetings shall also be called by the AIS President upon written request of forty AIS members, of whom not more than

fifteen shall be from any one AIS Region. Such written request shall contain a statement of the purpose of such meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be mailed to the AIS membership at least thirty days in advance of such meeting, stating time, place and purpose, and no business shall be transacted at such meeting other than that stated in the notice.

- (c) A majority of the AIS Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any business meeting.
- (d) All appropriations of money voted by AIS members at any business meeting of the AIS shall be subject to the approval of three-fourths of the AIS Board of Directors.

Section 2. General meetings shall be called and held annually or from time to time, and be national, regional, area or local;

- (a) National general meetings shall be called only by the AIS Board of Directors, which shall determine the time and place of such meetings, with appropriate advance notice published in the AIS BULLETIN or mailed to the AIS membership
- (b) Regional, area or local meetings shall be called either by the AIS Board of Directors or by the AIS Regional Vice President in whose AIS Region the meeting is to be held.
- (c) All general meetings shall be called and conducted in conformity with the rules prescribed by the AIS Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3: 1. The AIS Board of Directors shall have complete and comprehensive power and authority to conduct the affairs of the AIS, the intent of these bylaws being to confer upon the AIS Board full discretion and power in any and all situations that may arise.

Section 4: 2. The AIS Board of Directors shall consist of thirteen elected directors and such ex officio members as hereinafter provided, all of whom shall be AIS members. The thirteen elected directors and not more than ~~six~~ seven ex officio members shall have full voting privileges, except as provided hereinafter.

- (a) Four directors shall be elected annually and shall hold office for three years and until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified. If an unfilled vacancy exists on the Board, the election of more than four directors may be necessary. ~~No director shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive full three-year terms.~~

- (b) One director who is a Regional Vice President in the second year in that office shall be elected annually by the AIS Board of Counselors at its annual spring meeting and shall hold office for the succeeding fiscal year and until a successor is duly elected and qualified.
- (c) No director shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive full three-year terms. Appointments to complete more than eighteen months of an unfinished term shall be considered as serving one full term.
- (d) A director who has served two consecutive full three year terms shall not become eligible again for nomination or appointment as a director until after being off the board as a director for one year.
- (e) An outgoing or retiring member holding the following positions shall not become eligible again for election or appointment as a director until after being out of office for one year: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, and Immediate Past President.
- (f) The election or appointment of a director to one of the following positions shall create a vacancy on the board for the departing director's unfinished term: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor. A director elected to fill one of these positions shall be entitled to cast but a single vote even though a successor has not been duly named and qualified.
- (g) Outgoing directors and ex officio members shall be eligible for appointment as non-voting chairs of advisory committees of the Board.
- (c) ~~Those AIS Board members holding the following offices~~ (h) Officers holding the following positions shall be ex officio members unless already serving as elected of the board of directors: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor. These officers shall have full voting powers unless filling a salaried position and accepting compensation for services rendered in that position in furtherance of the purposes of the AIS.
- (d) (i) Each Past President of the AIS, other than the Immediate Past President, unless otherwise a director or officer, shall be an ex officio member of the AIS Board without voting privileges.

- (e) (j) In case of a vacancy on the AIS Board, Board of a director serving a three year term, the President shall have the power to fill the unexpired term by appointment, subject to the approval of the Board. appointment from the remaining candidates from the two most recent pools of nominees, subject to confirmation by the AIS Board. The president shall call upon the Nominating Committee to augment the pool of qualified candidates whenever the number remaining falls below double the number of vacancies to be filled.

Section 2: Section 3. Nomination and election of directors shall be as follows:

- (a) ~~A personnel committee~~ Nominating Committee of five members shall be named annually at the AIS spring meeting and shall consist of two members from and selected by the AIS Board of Directors, two Regional Vice Presidents elected by the AIS Board of Counsellors and a Counselors, and one representative chosen by the AIS Section and Cooperating Society Advisory Board. The committee shall select its own chair.

~~chairman; and, at~~ (b) The AIS Board and any member of the AIS general membership may submit names to the Nominating Committee for consideration for nomination. At the following year's AIS spring meeting, suggest meeting the Nominating Committee shall report to the AIS Board of Directors a pool of names of qualified candidates for nomination as directors except for the one-year board membership held by a Regional Vice President. at least equal to double the number of vacancies to be filled.

- (b) ~~The one-year board member shall be elected by the Board of Counsellors at its annual spring meeting.~~

- (c) Nominations for directors other than the one-year Regional Vice President member shall be made by the AIS Board of Directors at its spring meeting and the meeting. After the Nominating Committee has presented its report and before voting takes place, the chair shall call for further nominations from individual members of the Board and from the floor. Selection of a single slate of nominees for directors shall then be made by the AIS Board of Directors at that spring meeting. The names of the single slate of nominees selected by the Board shall be published

in the AIS BULLETIN or mailed to the AIS membership on or before August 1 of each year.

- (d) Any additional nomination shall thereafter be by petition signed by forty members, with not more than fifteen from any one AIS Region, and such petition shall be submitted to and received by the AIS Secretary on or before September 1 of the same year. A ballot including the names of the original nominees and any additional nominee or nominees shall be mailed to all AIS members on or before October 1 of each year, and returned ballots received by the AIS Secretary or the Election Committee, if one is appointed, on or before November 1 of the same year.
- (e) If there are no additional nominations, a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected. Results of the election shall forthwith be reported to the AIS President and shall be published in the AIS BULLETIN.

~~**Section 3. The AIS Board of Directors shall have complete and comprehensive power and authority to conduct the affairs of the AIS, the intent of these bylaws being to confer upon the AIS Board full discretion and power in any and all situations that may arise.**~~

Section 4. The AIS Board of Directors shall designate and constitute certain geographical divisions as official AIS Regions, and appoint an AIS Regional Vice President to preside over each official AIS Region. The AIS Board of Directors shall, as deemed necessary in furtherance of the purposes of the AIS, rescind or change the designated boundaries of such official AIS Regions, and the appointment of affected AIS regional Vice Presidents shall be rescinded or altered as necessary. AIS Regional Vice Presidents shall be appointed annually by the AIS Board of Directors at its fall meeting. The term of office for an AIS Regional Vice President is one year, beginning at the date of appointment, and no AIS Regional Vice President shall serve for more than three successive years. An AIS Regional Vice President who has served for three successive years shall again become eligible for appointment as AIS Regional Vice President after being out of the office for one year.

Section 5. The AIS Board of Directors shall designate one of its members as advisor to the AIS Board of ~~Counselors~~, Counselors, which shall consist of the AIS Regional Vice Presidents. The AIS Board of ~~Counselors~~ Counselors shall meet during the national spring meeting of the AIS, and shall consider all questions that may arise relating to the best

interests of the AIS and its various regions, and make recommendations to the AIS Board of Directors.

Section 6. The AIS Board of Directors shall designate one of its members as liaison consultant to the AIS Section and Cooperating Society Advisory Board, which shall consist of the presidents of the AIS ~~Sections:~~ sections and cooperating societies. The AIS Section and Cooperating Society Advisory Board shall meet during the national spring meeting of the AIS, consider questions relating to the best interests of the AIS and its sections and cooperating societies, and make recommendations to the AIS Board of Directors.

Section 7. The AIS Board of Directors shall, in furtherance of the purposes of the AIS, have the authority to create and appoint committees and delegate to such committees powers and functions as seem proper; and shall further have the authority to establish administrative positions and appoint officers or assistants to staff such positions, and to define the authority and powers given to such officers or assistants.

Section 8. The AIS Board of Directors shall have the authority to adopt rules for its own government, not inconsistent with these bylaws or the purposes of the AIS.

Section 9. The AIS Board of Directors shall meet in the spring and fall of each year and at such time or times as the AIS President designates.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Section 1. The AIS Board of Directors at its annual fall meeting shall elect the following officers to serve one year or until their successors are named and qualified: (1) President, (2) First Vice President, (3) Second Vice President, (4) Secretary, (5) Treasurer, and (6) Editor.

(a) ~~The President and President~~, First Vice President ~~shall be elected from among the incumbent President, and~~ (b) **The Second Vice President shall be elected from among the incumbent directors:** directors or from among those AIS members who have served one or more full terms as an AIS Director or ex officio Director.

(b) ~~The Second Vice President shall be elected from among the incumbent directors:~~

(c) (b) The Secretary, Treasurer and Editor shall be elected from ~~among the incumbent directors~~ the Board of Directors or from

among ~~the~~ those AIS members of the AIS: who are qualified to hold these offices.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the AIS and of the AIS Board of ~~Directors; Directors.~~ During the President's term of office, the President shall have general superintendence of the affairs of the AIS and shall make an annual report to the AIS Board of Directors. be ex officio member of all committees, except as provided herein. The President shall be eligible to serve no more than three consecutive one-year terms.

Section 3. The First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in case of the President's absence.

Section 4. The Second Vice President shall perform the duties of the First Vice President in case of the First Vice President's absence.

Section 5. The Secretary shall keep the records of the proceedings of the AIS and of the AIS Board of Directors and carry on the correspondence. The Secretary shall mail notices of meetings and have charge and custody of AIS books and papers except those relating to AIS financial affairs. The Secretary shall draw written orders for the payment of AIS expenses by the Treasurer, with such orders signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the President and/or First Vice President. The Secretary shall make an annual report to the AIS Board of Directors.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall receive and keep records of all AIS monetary assets, and shall maintain these assets in special accounts in the name of the AIS. The Treasurer shall pay authorized AIS expenses upon written, signed order of the Secretary, countersigned by the President and/or First Vice President. The Treasurer shall make an annual report of all receipts and disbursements to the AIS Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall annually submit all books and records to auditors approved by the AIS Board of Directors.

Section 7. The Editor shall have charge of editing the AIS BULLETIN, subject in all matters to the approval of the AIS Board of Directors.

Section 8. Persons receiving a salary may include a BULLETIN Editor, Membership Secretary, Registrar, and others who may be appointed by the AIS Board of Directors to insure that its important functions are cared for by competent persons in a timely manner.

Section 9. The AIS Board of Directors shall determine those officers; directors and/or other persons requiring bonding, which shall be at the expense of the AIS, and shall set bonding limits as deemed prudent.

ARTICLE VIII - RECORDS AND REPORTS

All records and reports of the officers and directors of the AIS shall be a matter of public record and shall be available to the AIS membership upon request, or printed in the AIS BULLETIN.

ARTICLE IX - DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATION

In the event of dissolution of the corporation, after paying or adequately providing for its debts and obligations, the AIS Board of Directors shall distribute all corporate assets to such organizations as are qualified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of a future Internal Revenue Law.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Initiation of amendments to these bylaws shall be by a two-thirds vote at any business meeting of the AIS or of the AIS Board of Directors, provided that notice of the proposed amendment or amendments shall have been included in the notice of the meeting. Such proposed amendment or amendments shall then be submitted by mail to the AIS membership. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the total cast for any amendment or amendments shall be required for ratification and adoption.

Section 2. The AIS Board of Directors shall have the authority to submit any question, including amendments to these bylaws, by mail to members of the AIS with the request that the members vote by mail upon such questions. Voting by mailed ballot shall be as valid as if the question were voted upon at an annual or special meeting of the AIS.

Section 3. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used in all meetings of the AIS to cover questions not provided for in these bylaws.

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